Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Risquet Meets Portuguese Communist Party Leader

FL1406004588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, has met at the Foreign Ministry with Octavio Pato, member of the Portuguese Communist Party Politburo. Pato is visiting our country representing his organization.

Risquet expressed to the visitor our party's solidarity with the struggle of the Portuguese communists. Historic ties unite us to this party in the struggle against fascism and colonialism and for peace, disarmament, independence, and social progress of the peoples. A lively exchange took place on the situation in Portugal and the Cuban revolutionary process. Several important aspects of international affairs were also analyzed.

CSSR's Chnoupek Leaves; Malmierca at Departure

FL1606013588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Excerpt] CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek departed from our country today after paying an official visit. His Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca, and Vice Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera saw him off. Stanislav Svoboda and Mario Rodriguez, ambassadors to Cuba and the CSSR, respectively, also bade him farewell. The CSSR official stayed in Cuba for 3 days. [passage omitted]

Ecuador's Vargas Pazzos on Need for L.A. Unity

FL1506021088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Interview with General Frank Vargas Pazzos, retired, former Ecuadoran presidential candidate, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given— recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] General Vargas Pazzos visited Panama and Nicaragua before arriving in our country. Could you give us your views on U.S. policy in Central America, especially in Panama and Nicaragua?

[Vargas Pazzos] We could say that the objective of our visits was to show our solidarity with these brother countries, to show Latin American unity, which needs to be strengthened and practiced today more than ever. I am sure that as soon as our peoples unite, the situation will fundamentally change. We will, through our efforts and the concentration of our strength, be able to defend Latin America and—why not say it—defeat imperialism.

[Reporter] Vargas Pazzos led an uprising against the present Ecuadoran Government in March 1986. The former chief of the Air Force held three bases under his control for a week. The rebels demanded the dismissal of several high-level government officials and accused them of corruption. The demand was fulfilled but Vargas Pazzos was kept in prison awaiting trial despite parliament's approval of an amnesty. Almost a year later, in January 1987, a paratrooper commando kidnapped President Leon Febres-Cordero and obtained Vargas Pazzos' release.

Regarding the visit in our country, now that it has ended, what are your views on Cuba?

[Vargas Pazzos] To visit Cuba and see the progress made by a revolution is to spiritually generate more strength. Spiritually, it is to be certain of what it means to struggle the way Cuba did for its liberation. It is necessary to make comparisons to be able to distinguish and see the progress. When we see the progress made in the fields of education, health, and work, and when we see the respect for human rights in this country, we see that it is a unique model in the world.

Trade Union Figure Addresses ILO Conference

FL1306220588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1948 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] A delegation from the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] asked today in Geneva for the intensification of efforts to free funds obtained from disarmament so that they could be used in development. CTC representative Juan Aguero made this proposal at the 75th ILO conference, being held in Geneva. Before trade union organizations from 63 countries, Aguero asserted that after the recently-held summit meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, there is a possibility of halting the arms race. The CTC leader stressed that peace should include the end of dirty wars against sovereign countries such as Nicaragua, Angola, and Panama and the wiping out of the repulsive apartheid system.

Che Guevara Birth Anniversay Honored

FL1406184088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Our FAR today paid tribute to the heroic guerrilla who is the example and leader of our current revolutionary combatants. The General Maximo Gomez FAR Academy, Antonio Maceo Order hosted the military ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Argentine, Cuban, and internationalist commander.

Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and first vice minister of the FAR; politburo members; and relatives and combat comrades of Che were present at the ceremony. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] When we think back, those of us who thought we knew him well see how many new traits of his original personality we still discover. We eagerly delve into the inexhaustible wealth of knowledge of Commander Ernesto Guevara. With the

passage of time, the dimension of his philosophy becomes greater, and each time, his stature is greater and becomes even more an attainable aspiration for all true revolutionaries.

Labor, Planning Efficiency in Crop Planting Urged

FL1306184588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] Last Wednesday, our newscast carried a report on the loss of more than 5,000 [as heard] quintals of vegetables during the 1st quarter of the year in a lot belonging to the Havana miscellaneous crops enterprise. The report also warned about the fate of an additional 3,000 quintals. There has now been a response.

[Begin recording of unidentified woman] We came here because we learned of the situation from the television report. We came with the object of getting together members of the Federation of Cuban Women from this block and undertaking a massive and voluntary effort on Sunday in order to recover as much as possible. [end recording]

The principal reason for these losses is the shortage of labor. Lot No 3 in Fontanar has only 22 workers engaged in production. An additional 50 are needed to bring it up to full staff and deal with the planting, cultivation, and harvesting in particular, on a permanent basis.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We can tell you, for instance, that the agricultural-livestock mechanization institute came here and is working today. It was mobilized by the agricultural-livestock trade union and by the people of the agricultural-livestock fair. We can say that these enterprises really came here to work. However, this has not solved the problem because we still haven't been able to touch many of the crops, despite the fact that several comrades are working on the problem. We can tell you that the vice minister for human resources was here to inspect the situation. He told us that 100 comrades from the agricultural-livestock institutes were coming, 60 of whom are working today in harvesting the bean crop. However, so far the comrades who have come here have been unable to resolve the situation. We still haven't picked a single radish or carrot because we have spent the time picking the tomatoes. You know that they are more liable to spoil. We are now harvesting the beans. We managed to pick only half the pimiento. The rest is still sitting there. As to clearing the land, we have been unable to do anything about it.

[Reporter] Why can't anything be done about implementing the harvest plan as established?

[Second unidentified speaker] I feel that it can indeed be done. I believe that it can be achieved if the officials of the miscellaneous crops enterprise, of the enterprise's individual lots, follow the crop cycles. They can do so by not waiting—or rather, they should not wait until the last moment, but just before harvest time, they should prepare a schedule to determine what gets picked first. This way, we can all contribute to the work flow. [end recording]

Planting and harvesting volumes have grown in recent years but organization should keep apace. If we plan to cultivate a product, we should also plan to harvest it. In this case, it is up to the miscellaneous crops enterprise and all the individuals involved in Boyeros municipality.

The bottom line is that a definitive solution must be found so that the loss of 5,000 quintals of vegetables will not happen again. This figure means that more than 100,000 people, using a consumption rate of 5 pounds per capita, were left without vegetables for a whole month. Not a single vegetable must be lost for lack of manpower or intelligence, or, what's worse, for lack of interest. That is our view.

Haiti

Officer Barricades Himself in Military Base

FL1506130788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] A prominent Army colonel has barricaded himself inside a military base. Col Jean-Claude Paul has been accused by U.S. officials of drug trafficking; he also is a supporter of former Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Col Paul is inside the Dessalines Army base along with 700 soldiers. He's been ordered to report to the General Headquarters of the Haitian Army in Port-au-Prince.

Paul Transfer Rumored

FL1506161088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The big question being asked since yesterday afternoon here in Port-au-Prince is: Has Colonel Jean-Claude Paul been transferred? A certain malaise has also been noted in several parts of the capital since yesterday afternoon, particularly downtown.

Yesterday, many of the sawhorses habitually set up at night to prevent the circulation of traffic were put up earlier than usual. Also, these barricades were noted in different places in Port-au-Prince, especially in front of the eastern facade of the Dessalines Barracks. In addition, trucks carrying soldiers were seen at more regular intervals in the streets of the capital.

Many rumors have been circulating since yesterday afternoon regarding possible transfers within the Army.

According to the Voice of America [VOA] yesterday afternoon, the Armed Forces General Headquarters has reportedly decided to transfer Col Paul, who has been heading the Dessalines Barracks, to General Headquarters. VOA says this report has not been confirmed or

denied. Furthermore, no one knows whether the colonel has agreed to comply with the alleged transfer. However, there are rumors to the effect that the colonel is still inside the barracks, although no one seems to know exactly where.

Yesterday at the Dessalines Barracks there were more than four or five soldiers posted where a single soldier is habitually posted. According to VOA, which was reporting the rumors, Col Paul seems to have overstepped his authority and arrested certain individuals suspected of participating in criminal actions at night. It seems some of these individuals were beaten to death while under arrest.

A U.S. Embassy official whom we contacted regarding the VOA report said— although he refused to confirm the report—that he too had gotten this same information from a reliable source.

A soldier from the Army General Headquarters whom we contacted said he was just passing through and that he himself did not know exactly what was going on. He said he knew nothing about any transfers.

Also, an AFP report last night spoke of beginning panic in the business district of Port-au-Prince yesterday afternoon. Stores hastened to shut their doors earlier than usual, after rumors of the transfer of Col Paul, commander of the powerful Jean-Jacques Dessalines Battalion, began circulating. These rumors, on which there has been no official comment, claimed Col Paul, who heads Haiti's largest ground forces battalion, had been transferred from that command to other duties.

AFP says it was told by an informed source that Col Paul had indeed been transferred from his position to the Army General Headquarters by Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, commander in chief of the Haitian Army. Namphy reportedly named Paul assistant head of the General Staff, G-2, replacing Colonel Morton Gousse, who has reportedly been promoted to brigadier general. Lieutenant Colonel Guy Francois, second in command of the Dessalines Battalion, has reportedly become the new commander of the Dessalines Battalion, at the decision of Gen Namphy. The Haitian authorities are reportedly to confirm these changes within the next few hours.

Meanwhile, this morning, there are reportedly a few strange things going on downtown. It seems there are flaming barricades. A reliable source has informed us that there are flaming barricades at the corner of Rue de L'Enterrement and Rue St Honore. There is also fire and a number of bottles containing an unknown substance in the vicinity of the intersection of Rue St Honore and Grande Rue. There are some 50 bottles in the midst of the fire.

There is a flaming barricade of tires and wood in the vicinity of the intersection of Martissant No 7 and Grand Rue. In Portail Leogane, there is more or less the same thing—a barricade made of the tables the vendors use to display their goods.

We have reporters in the streets and will keep you informed.

Military Denies Transfer Orders

FL1506161588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1335 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] ...was transferred from his command to other duties. [passage omitted]

Despite these rumors, no troop movements were noted yesterday, other than a reinforcement of the guards at the Dessalines Barracks and a prohibition on moving about in vehicles on the eastern side of the barracks.

Also, several flaming barricades, or vestiges of barricades, were seen downtown this morning.

Colonel Gary Leon of the Armed Forces General Headquarters, whom we contacted by telephone this morning, told us that he had not as yet received any order or message regarding any transfers of high-ranking military officers. A Dessalines Barracks source told us that Col Jean-Claude Paul is still at his post.

We are still awaiting official confirmation or any official statements regarding this matter.

Manigat Issues Communique

FL1506162088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1355 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The reshuffle within the Haitian Army has been confirmed in a communique from the Presidency of the Republic. However, the communique says that all decisions in connection with the reshuffle were made without the prior knowledge of the president of Haiti, who is constitutionally the head of the Haitian Armed Forces, even though he does not command them personally.

President Manigat asks the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces to stay this measure, in order to avoid a crisis.

Here is the text of the communique:

The Presidency of the Republic wishes to inform the general public that the transfers and retirements of high-ranking and other military officers ordered by the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces were decided upon and announced on the morning of 14 June,

without the prior knowledge and/or consent of the president of the Republic, who is constitutionally the head of the Haitian Armed Forces, even though he does not command them personally.

These decisions were neither ratified nor approved by the chief of state.

In order to avoid a major crisis, which would be to the detriment of democracy and of Haiti, the president of the Republic orders the reestablishment of the statu quo ante—that is, orders this decision withdrawn—as the measure of conservation most in keeping with the national interest, while awaiting a definitive solution which, in keeping with the policy of change of the constitutional government of Haiti, has as its objective the democratization and modernization of the Haitian Armed Forces, to place them at the service of the nation's development.

This, then, was the communique from the Presidency of the Republic in which President Manigat asks that the transfer of the commander of the Dessalines Barracks be annulled.

Streets Quiet; Police on Alert

FL1506210088 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Our roving reporters are in the downtown and residential areas to inform us as to how things are developing. Here is the first report from our colleagues downtown on the situation before noon:

Although we have information that we cannot yet broadcast because we have not been able to verify it, we can say that in general, the streets are quiet. Our reporters noticed that traffic along the road leading from Port-au-Prince to Petion-Ville was lighter than usual today.

Also, the police seem to be on the alert in the vicinity of the Grand Rue, a Radio Haiti-Inter reporter noted at around 1130. Blue-uniformed policemen wearing helmets and carrying billy clubs were posted at certain street corners in the vicinity of the Grand Rue, such as the corners of Rue des Casernes, Rue St Honore, and Rue Champ de Mars.

Two Dessalines Barracks trucks passed, going very fast and using sirens. These trucks scared people in the vicinity of the Grand Rue, where the street vendors were ready to run away.

We were also informed that many stores are half-closed and that the street vendors are very watchful and wary. However, aside from this little moment of panic at around 1130 that our reporter told us about, things appear to be very quiet in downtown Port-au-Prince.

We will wait for them to get back and will give you any additional information they might have, either in this newscast or later newscasts.

Meanwhile, we have been trying to contact several high-ranking government and military officials, but we have been unable to do so. None are in their offices. When we tried to reach them at home, we were told they were on the way to their offices, but they were never to be found there.

This same situation prevails at the Army General Headquarters, the National Palace, and several ministries.

Dessalines Soldiers Interviewed

FL1506224388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The president has informed the Haitian people that the transfers and retirements decided on by the commander in chief of the Army in a communique that was to go into effect on the morning of 14 June were decided on without the president's knowledge, without the president's being consulted. [passage omitted]

At around noon, several government and Army officials we tried to contact were either not at their offices or were in meetings. We also went to the Dessalines Barracks. All soldiers there were calm although they all kept their rifles and helmets close by their sides.

According to a Dessalines Barracks source, access to the barracks has been restricted since yesterday, Tuesday, 14 June. Several soldiers we encountered declined our invitation to make statements to us. But according to those who were willing to talk, this business of removing Colonel Paul is just not possible. Nevertheless, they are simply there, awaiting orders from higher up.

We were not able to see Col Paul himself. We were told he was busy. However, we were able to talk to Solange Devarieux, a soldier assigned to the Dessalines Barracks, mainly because he wanted to talk to us, too. He himself said they would have to go over his dead body to remove Col Jean-Claude Paul.

[Begin recording] [Devarieux] Solange Devarieux.

[Reporter] You at the Dessalines Barracks, what are you?

[Devarieux] There is everything in the Dessalines Barracks. It represents the entire country. Haitians who are aware, who know what they want, go to the Dessalines Barracks.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the report of Col Paul's transfer?

[Devarieux] It's a great way for the general to throw the country into a mess again. That's the way to prevent Haitian mothers from ever having educated children. Listen, it is Col Paul who has done everything for this country. When someone doesn't know anybody, when he doesn't know an important figure, people say whatever they want about him.

Everything that happens is blamed on Paul and the Dessalines Barracks. He took it. He is a soldier. He just shouldered it all.

The reason they want to transfer Col Paul is because the other day—in connection with this business of insecurity—he saw everyone just standing by with folded arms. He himself said he cannot accept humble people dying like that. You are sitting at home and (?they shoot you). You are walking down the street and some thug comes and beats you up. And everyone just folds his arms and keeps his mouth shut and does nothing!

He made an arrest and that is why they asked that he be transferred.

[Reporter] What arrest? Who was arrested?

[Devarieux] I don't know who was arrested. But I do know that there was an arrest in connection with insecurity.

[Reporter] And where are the people who were arrested?

[Devarieux] They're there. They are being investigated, until it is discovered why...

[Reporter, interrupting] Are you saying that this is a reaction on the part of the Haitian Army high command to the decision to make an arrest?

[Devarieux] No, I'm not affirming this. [Words indistinct] say that. But why should they transfer Col Paul? Col Paul has done all kinds of wonderful things. We were there and we saw. From June, they said there would be no festival of Corpus Christi. He took the battalion and sent out guards. He provided security and Corpus Christi went off very well.

Col Paul has done other things, too. It is thanks to Col Paul that schools were able to open and operate. It is thanks to Col Paul that students can attend class at present.

So if they think... [rephrases] if the general now thinks that he is going to take out Col Paul—to remove him from the Dessalines Barracks and put him elsewhere—he is going to throw the country into worse shape than it was in on 7 February ...

[Reporter, interrupting] What will happen?

[Devarieux] We ourselves will not have Col Paul leave the Dessalines Barracks. We will either live or die with Col Paul. And all of us, whether civilians or military or whatever, will die with Col Paul. The general can just keep his communique, and we will await a better one.

[Reporter] Solange, the way you are talking, you seem to be very close to the colonel. How does the colonel feel about this news?

[Devarieux] I am not very close to the colonel. I am very close to my country. I want a person who (?cares about his country).

[Reporter] And how about you? What is your name?

[(Valbrandt)] (Jean Miguel Valbrandt).

[Reporter] I see you are attached here, to the Dessalines Barracks?

[(Valbrandt)] I wouldn't say I am attached. I am a Haitian, in my own country, who wants to defend his country's interests, who understands those who want to help this country.

[Reporter] How do you feel about this transfer?

[(Valbrandt)] I think it is way out of line. To transfer someone just like that, abruptly, without his knowledge or anything—to haul him out of his barracks just like that! I personally just don't think it's right. Thus, our decision is that we are at the side of our colonel, and we support him. And all Haitians with any kind of awareness, who understand these problems, should support the colonel, too, because they can see why the colonel has made this commitment now.

[Reporter] I can see that you are somewhat agitated, but what if, for example, the military high command decides to stand its ground on this decision, the decision to transfer the colonel. What will happen?

[Words indistinct; two speakers answer simultaneously]

[Speaker] Over (?his) dead body!

[Second speaker] They will have to (?come get him) over the bodies of the Haitian people! [end recording]

After leaving the Dessalines Barracks, what were the streets of Port-au-Prince like this morning, Wednesday, 15 June?

There was no traffic around the Dessalines Barracks. Armed Dessalines Barracks soldiers were spread out all over the downtown area.

Also, there was a momentary panic this morning in downtown Port-au-Prince and life is at a slowdown in the capital of Haiti.

Military Rescinds Transfers

FL1506232088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The administrative measures taken yesterday by the Haitian Armed Forces High Command have been rescinded.

Following a summit meeting today attended by Haitian President Leslie Francois Manigat; General Williams Regala, retired, minister of national defense; and the Armed Forces High Command, it was decided to temporarily rescind the measures taken yesterday within the Army.

According to certain well-informed sources, these measures were aimed at transferring the commander of the Dessalines Barracks to the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces. Other high-ranking Army officers— among them the head of the Port-au-Prince police—were also targeted by these measures.

In a press release announcing the withdrawal of these measures today, the Army command reaffirms its loyalty without reservation to the Government of the Republic, within the framework of the dispositions of the Constitution and of the law. [passage omitted]

After a certain slowdown in activity noted early this morning in Port-au-Prince, the situation returned to normal. Nevertheless, the measures taken with regard to strategic places remain in effect. There are more soldiers clad in olive green visible at the entrances to the Dessalines Barracks and the military hospital and around the National Palace.

Drivers Stage Strike; Cap Haitien Road Closed

FL1506144188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Public transportation drivers operating between Ouanaminthe and Cap Haitien are on strike. The road from Ouanaminthe to Cap Haitien has been closed to traffic by the strike. The drivers are demanding that this portion of the road be repaired.

[Begin recording of unidentified correspondent, in Creole] No vehicle traveled on the road to the northeast today because all the drivers of public transportation vehicles have gone on strike. [passage omitted] They declared that they will not travel on the road at all, since the road is unfit for traffic because it has never been maintained. One of the drivers told us that the last time the road to the northeast had been repaired was in 1983, when former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier toured the area. Since then, there has been no further maintenance of the road. [passage omitted]

They also say that despite the many requests to repair the roads they have addressed to the Public Works Ministry and the road maintenance department, nothing has ever been done. They have never gotten an answer, they say. They add that it looks as if these agencies are deaf to the requests of the people of the northeast. [passage omitted]

Thus, they declare that they will remain on strike until the road is repaired. They say they will not resume work until the Haitian Government agencies repair it. [passage omitted]

Thus, the drivers say the only vehicles that will be allowed to transit the road are Haitian Army vehicles, ambulances, Electricite d'Haiti [national electric company] vehicles, and Teleco [Telecommunications d'Haiti] vehicles. All others may not travel the road. If they try, they will be taken hostage, according to the drivers. They say that not even private vehicles may transit the road, because they are going to enter into solidarity with various people, just so the northeast can have some roads.

One of the drivers remarked that they don't need a paved road; a good dirt road will do. The state can give them a paved road in the future. That is what they said to us. [end recording]

This was a news report from the northeast, in the Ouanaminthe area, where a public transportation drivers' strike is going on. They have blocked off the portion of the road from Ouanaminthe to Cap Haitien so that the authorities will fix the road. [passage omitted]

Strike Lifted; May Resume

FL1506211088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Report from Fort Liberte correspondent (Jean Donel)]

[Excerpts] The strike called yesterday by public transportation drivers from several communities in the Department of the Northeast has been lifted following a meeting between technicians of the TPTC [Ministry of Public Works] and all the drivers from the Department of the Northeast. The strike order was followed 100 percent. Police vehicles have been patrolling in the Fort Liberte area and no unfortunate incidents have been reported. [passage omitted]

Technicians are going to field a brigade by Friday, at the latest, to repair the road. [passage omitted]

For their part, the drivers say that if work on the road has not truly begun by Friday they will resume the strike next Monday. Meanwhile, they have lifted the strike but say they are keeping an eye on the technicians from the TPTC office. The TPTC headquarters is in Cap Haitien but it is responsible for the north, the northeast, and the northwest.

The drivers have also announced that they are raising fares because they are using a lot of gasoline. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Killing of Driver, Bus Strike Spark Unrest

FL1506132388 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] There was unrest in Jamaica following the killing of a bus driver last Friday. The killing on Friday sparked off a weekend strike by drivers.

On Monday, buses that continued to run were attacked by stone-throwing mobs of people. Though police have not announced the suspect, many Jamaicans are convinced that driver Jerome White was shot by Lester Coke, otherwise known as Jim Brown, who is a notorious figure in Jamaican politics. For several hours yesterday, armed security forces sealed Tiboli Gardens, a neighborhood in which Lester Coke lives.

St Lucia

Dam Construction With Foreign Backing Planned

FL1406155488 Bridgetown CANA in English
1450 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, June 14, CANA—St Lucia has obtained foreign backing for the construction of a 100 million dollar (one East Caribbean dollar-37 U.S. cents) dam, according to Prime Minister John Compton.

On his return here from last week's World Bank-sponsored Caribbean aid meeting, Prime Minister Compton announced that 97 million EC dollars had been pledged by a financial consortium headed by Canada.

The dam is to provide water for the densely-populated northern part of the island.

Compton said the funding pledged meant that water supply to cope with the demand for the next 50 years had been assured.

Officials of the World Bank, to which the government had applied for financing for the project, visited the proposed site late last year. The dam will be constructed on a 60-acre site of forest land in the Roseau Valley. It will have a maximum storage capacity of 600 million gallons.

The Canadian Government has already sent a team of experts to help in the designing of the project.

Compton says the Caribbean Development Bank has also been approached for assistance.

Satellite Station To Improve Communications

FL1006165588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1332 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, June 10, CANA—St Lucia on Friday inaugurates a EC 10 million dollar (1 East Caribbean dollar;37 U.S. cents) satellite earth station, which will significantly improve telecommunications links between the Caribbean island and the United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Canada via the Intelsat system.

The General Telecommunications and Electronics (GTE) digital standard earth station is the first of its kind to be used by cable and wireless worldwide, and is the only one of its kind in the eastern Caribbean.

The plus for St. Lucia is that we can now provide greater speed of transmission for offshore data processing than has been possible in the region, said the commerical and operations manager of C&W here, Keetes Compton. He said that St. Lucia is consequently poised to take advantage of the booming offshore data entry business.

Other islands like Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago have earth stations but they are analog stations; consequently, the advantage for the investor is that he can get more data transmitted in the same period of time in St. Lucia than in the other islands, Compton said.

He said that neighbouring territories like Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada will also be using this earth station for their voice and data communications. The advantage for them as well is that previously their traffic like ours was switched via Barbados; now we will be providing direct links for these territories as well as ourselves to the UK, U.S.A and Canada.

Prime Minister John Compton will officially open the new facility.

Electoral Ballots Found in Private Shop
PA1506141288 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Jun 88 p 3

[Text] Yesterday Jorge Alcocer, PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] representative to the Federal Electoral Commission, said in a news conference that a number of Democratic Trend youths found a private shop where electoral ballots for the local elections in Sinaloa were being printed. He added that the ballots "would be used for the PRI on 6 July." The PMS representative said that the person ordering the ballots has not been identified. He added that according to Jorge Aguallo, in charge of production in this printing shop—named Novograf and located at 11 Penitentiary Street in Morelos neighborhood—the ballots "were ordered by a IEPES [Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies] and PRI member."

Alcocer also said PRI propaganda is printed in this shop and that no incidents occurred when EXCELSIOR, Monterrey EL NORTE, and Radio Educacion reporters and a Democratic Current group entered the shop. He pointed out that it was strange there were no guards or security measures, considering that ballots were being printed there.

PMS, the Democratic Current, and the Democratic Assembly for Effective Suffrage have demanded that the Government Secretariat and the Sonora Government clarify this "satisfactorily." Alcocer stated clearly that "the government is not to be blamed for this, because the ballots were ordered by PRI people."

He said this printing is illegal because the electoral material must be printed at the Government Printing Office and under supervision.

Cardenas Calls for 'Legality' in Elections
PA1506022988 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Jun 88 p 4

[Article by Ruben Arizmendi]

[Excerpts] Colima, Mexico, 11 Jun—The immediate task and duty of the country's democratic forces is to ensure the legality of the electoral process so the next government can be legitimate and have moral authority, Cuautemoc Cardenas Solorzano said today in an address to some 9,000 people at a rally at the "Garden of Freedom." [passage omitted]

During this, his second visit to the area, the National Democratic Front [FDN] and Mexican Socialist Party [PMS] presidential candidate said that the political struggle must be taken to whatever lengths the people choose because, he said, we have the right to elect our rulers with all the weapons and instruments that the law places at our disposal. [passage omitted]

The former Michoacan governor said there will be an FDN landslide on 6 July, which will hinder any attempt to cheat the party of its victory. He added that if the legality of the upcoming national elections is ensured, "we will be ensuring a historic triumph of the Mexican people, as well as the legality of all subsequent local, municipal, and national elections." [passage omitted]

We are not going to remain passive or be simple observers of electoral fraud; we will respond by defending our rights, Cuautemoc Cardenas said, adding that thousands of Mexicans have decided to defend the results of the upcoming elections, "no matter what the cost." [passage omitted]

At another rally in Ciudad Guzman, Jalisco, which was attended by some 1,500 people, the FDN and PMS presidential candidate said that he is opposed to the sale of the Atenquique paper company, which, he said, should have been turned over to the workers instead of to private enterprise. [passage omitted]

Official on Parastate Industry Reduction
FL1506174588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0252 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Sahagun, Mexico, 14 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today Eugenio Laris Alanis, deputy director of the parastate manufacturing industry, said here that after this administration's term in office ends, the energy, mines, and parastate industry sector will be reduced from 412 units to 70 and they will be grouped into six sectors.

The units will be grouped into Pemex, the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), Mexican Fertilizers (Fertimex), Mexican Iron and Steel (Sidermex), National Manufacturer of Boxcars (Concarril), and United Shipyards.

In an interview granted after a tank boxcar was manufactured by Concarril and sent to the United States, Laris Alanis said that the process of breaking up industries that are not strategic or priority units is proceeding as planned. However, he confirmed that a firm could be left behind when the current administration ends its term in office. He said, however, that there will be continuity during the next administration and the program will continue as planned.

Laris Alanis said that Mexico will not close or squander its firms. Normal procedures are being applied and it is expected that a buyer will be found for each firm. If this does not happen, a decision can be made on the situation, but the firm will not be disregarded, he said.

The official stressed that the sale or transfer of parastate industries has not given preference to private initiatives. Instead, the social sector has benefited because of the law regulating offers on similar terms for each industry.

In the case of the sugar mills, Laris Alanis said the time period has ended for receiving bids and the analysis process has begun so that the Finance Secretariat can soon reveal the names of possible buyers.

In conclusion, he said that they are not considering absorbing any new liabilities from the parastate industries. He said that they expect to profit from possible stock sales, as is the case with the national diesel industry and other firms.

Nicaragua's Tinoco Begins 2-Day Official Visit

FL1606031888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0211 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Today [Nicaraguan] Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco began a 2-day official visit in Mexico at the invitation of the Mexican Government.

During his visit, the Central American official will hold talks with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor and Manuel Rodriguez Arriaga, under secretary of international cooperation at the Foreign Secretariat.

The Foreign Secretariat reported that he will discuss with the two Mexican officials the situation in Central America and the developments of the peace efforts resulting from the Esquipulas II agreements.

In a communique, the secretariat reported that Tinoco will also meet with Humberto Hernandez, chairman of the International Affairs Commission of the Senate, and Alejandro Sobarzo Loaiza, secretary of international affairs of the PRI.

Finally, it also reported that the Sandinist government is interested in informing President de la Madrid about the developments of the dialogue with the Nicaraguan Resistance.

Interparliamentary Meeting With Belize Begins

FL1506153088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0441 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Salvador Neme Castillo, president of the Grand Commission of the Mexican Senate, has said that Mexico and Belize practice the principles of self-determination of the peoples and the equality of states.

Upon inaugurating the second Mexico-Belize interparliamentary conference, the legislator stressed the value the two nations place on liberty. Freedom is of no use, he said, if one can only choose between being one of the have-nots and destitution.

In reference to matters of intervention, he later said that Mexico and Belize agree on democratic principles since only democracy allows for the legitimate incorporation of the majority in making political decisions.

The Senate leader recognized the right of Belizeans to freely make their own decisions, and he added that Mexican legislators participating in this conference also agree on this point.

Regarding foreign policy, Neme Castillo said that Mexico seeks mutual cooperation by identifying projects that would allow the widening of communications channels and expanding friendly ties between Central American and Caribbean countries.

For his part, Carlos Castillo, president of the Belizean delegation, said that strengthening the ties with Mexico and Central America is an important priority for his country. He said that the visit to Belize recently made by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid was a historic event. Castillo added that Mexico and Belize can carry out joint actions to bring their people social justice and democracy within a framework of equality and peace.

Prior to the beginning of the event, the Belizean parliamentarians laid a floral wreath at the monument to the fatherland. Castillo wrote in the book of distinguished visitors: Mexico is a beloved country because its defenders were great.

Plane Transporting 935 Kg of Cocaine Crashes

FL1506201288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Saltillo, Mexico, 14 Jun (NOTIMEX)—A Colombian plane transporting 935.8 kg of pure cocaine was located by the Army 200 km west of Saltillo, Coahuila. The plane crashed when it ran out of fuel. Three people were killed.

According to the chief of the sixth military zone, General Rodolfo Renteria Alconedo, the plane—a Turbo Commander with the marking "XCNCL"—crashed on Saturday 45 km from the city of Parras near the Ceres hill. It is suspected that the drug belonged to the Medellin Cartel. The plane was found by peasants passing through the area and they immediately advised the military unit in Parras.

Members of the Army discovered 792 packages of pure cocaine in the plane, as well as the bodies of two people who have not yet been identified. No documents were found on the two bodies, which were dressed in clothing made in Colombia. The victims were also carrying 52,200 gold pesos from Colombia. The third person was identified as being from Mexico, according to the documents he was carrying.

The commander of the sixth zone said the airplane crashed when it ran out of fuel. They found 12 cans of turbo-fuel scattered around the plane. He said that the third crew member was apparently trying to refuel the aircraft.

Gen Renteria Alconedo added that the drug was taken to military installations in the sixth zone. Federal and military authorities have begun an extensive investigation.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2324 GMT on 14 June adds that Gen Renteria Alconedo's superiors gave orders that the drug be shipped to Mexico City since this is the most important cocaine confiscation made in Mexico this year.]

Costa Rica

Nicaraguan Envoys Brief Arias on Contra Talks

PA1506160388 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] A delegation of the Sandinist regime has arrived in the country to talk with President Oscar Arias Sanchez about the results attained in the dialogue with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. The Sandinist mission is composed of Rafael Solis, secretary of the National Assembly, and Danilo Abud, director of the Central American Department of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. Solis said they explained to the president the Nicaraguan Government's position and proposal and the suspension of the negotiations to attain a cease-fire in Nicaragua.

The Sandinist regime delegation that met with President Oscar Arias reasserted that its government is willing to continue the cease-fire negotiations with the RN. They said the cease-fire will be maintained until 30 June, as had been announced, and it would be extended as often as necessary. Nicaraguan National Assembly Secretary Rafael Solis said they are willing to exert themselves to the utmost until a permanent cease-fire agreement is signed with the RN.

Secretary Rafael Solis denied that democratization issues had caused a suspension of the Sandinist government's negotiations with the RN. He asserted that the Nicaraguan regime had accepted a number of RN proposals on democracy that would be discussed and perfected during the national dialogue that would be held between 11 July and 11 September. The proposals would have allowed them to attain progress concerning the development of democratization, because their contents are similar to the Sandinist proposals concerning democracy in a Latin American country.

The Sandinist government delegation that met with President Oscar Arias Sanchez has begun a tour throughout the countries in the area. Its goal is to inform the Costa Rican, Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan Governments about the results attained in the negotiations with the RN and the reasons—in its view—that caused the break in those negotiations. Nevertheless, the Sandinist envoys believe their government has complied with the points agreed upon by the parties in Sapoa.

Official on U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Drug Links

PA1506013888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Carlos Rivera, acting Costa Rican foreign minister, urged U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Deane Hinton to explain some remarks that allude to possible links between drug traffickers and Costa Rican politicians.

Rivera's note appeared after a local daily published an interview with the U.S. diplomat. Asked if he had evidence to prove the involvement of politicians and other authorities in drug trafficking, the U.S. ambassador said that he preferred to not answer the question.

During the interview, Hinton said that Costa Rica is a "very valuable transit point for drug trafficking and provides an investment center for illegal profits" resulting from this business.

In his note to the U.S. ambassador, Rivera Bianchini states: "Your answer leaves in doubt—which the government views as very serious—whether or not you have those reports and whether or not you wish to release them if they are in your possession."

The acting minister reminds the U.S. diplomat that the government "has declared a war on drugs and is willing to wage a merciless fight to prevent national territory from being used by drug traffickers."

"If you have evidence or justified doubts about the participation of Costa Rican politicians or authorities in drug-trafficking activities, I would appreciate your releasing the names of those allegedly involved," Rivera Bianchini adds.

El Salvador

FMLN-FDR Seeks Dialogue With U.S. Congressmen

PA1206043688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0512 GMT 11 Jun 88

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jun (EFE)—The Salvadoran FMLN-FDR guerrilla alliance seeks to establish a "systematic dialogue" with U.S. congressmen. This was announced today by FMLN-FDR representative Salvador Samayoa.

However, during his meeting with five foreign correspondents, Samayoa denied that they are planning to meet with U.S. congressmen in Mexico, as reported by a Mexican newspaper.

Samayoa said that the FMLN-FDR alliance made preliminary contacts with U.S. congressmen in an attempt to establish a "systematic dialogue" during which they would offer the next U.S. administration some "options."

The FMLN-FDR representative added that the next U.S. administration, whether Democratic or Republican, will find itself in a serious political situation with regard to El Salvador because the current regime "is going to fall; it is already going under."

Salvador Samayoa added that contacts between the FMLN-FDR and the U.S. congressmen are aimed at finding an alternative to the Salvadoran conflict, because the future U.S. administration must not "inherit a dead-end situation" for which the only solution would be a military intervention.

Samayoa said that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's resignation or death "is a factor that adds to the power void" existing in that Central American country because "he, at least, had the support of the United States and was the only person with authority and who could provide consistency."

The FMLN-FDR representative said that in addition to the talks with authorities, contacts have also been made with other Salvadoran sectors, even with the rightist ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], and that ARENA has expressed its willingness to establish an opening.

Regarding the participation of the Honduran Army in the Salvadoran conflict, Samayoa said that "soldiers have crossed the border and have suffered casualties."

Church Welcomes Meeting

PA1206191388 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 10 Jun 88 p 3

[Text] Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, has said that the Catholic Church is very favorably disposed toward the meeting that U.S. Democratic congressional leaders will hold with an FMLN-FDR delegation on 18 June because this is a new initiative to seek peace in El Salvador.

The prelate made statements to SALPRESS/NOTISAL after the 6-8 June meeting in Cuernavaca of bishops of Central America and Mexico, a meeting that was also attended by Cardinal Miguel Obandio y Bravo of Nicaragua and bishops from Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama.

Rosa Chavez asserted that the only solution to the internecine war would be a political settlement reached through a dialogue among the various sectors; therefore, the meeting to be held by the Democratic leaders with the FMLN on 18 June in Mexico City "is another peacekeeping initiative that deserves our support."

As is known, the U.S. Democratic Party wants the warring sides to continue the peacemaking process—which began in 1984 but came to a halt in 1987 following the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, coordinator of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES)—because it has become obvious that a military solution is not viable.

The meeting will be attended by Edward King, special assistant for Central American affairs of Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia), and Commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez and Mario Lopez of the FMLN and Guillermo Manuel Ungo and Ruben Zamora of the FDR. They will discuss the possibility of resuming the peace talks.

Thus far, the Duarte administration has refused to resume the talks, arguing that there is an institutional crisis and that the Christian Democratic Party is in disarray—the left wing claims it is on the way to extinction—so it is urgent to draw up a peace proposal for the rebels.

However, the Catholic Church, particularly Rosa Chavez, has stressed that any time is right to make peace, and it is therefore working on a proposal for "a national debate" among all national sectors. Any points on which the sides agree will then be submitted to the government and the rebel fronts.

The U.S. Democrats have echoed the rebels' offer of 18 May and have sent a request for a dialogue to the executive and legislative branches as well as to the Armed Forces. They have also asked the FMLN-FDR to attend the meeting on 18 June because, as Americans, they are convinced that the Reagan administration has only deepened the conflicts.

Blandon Comments on Army Operations, Dialogue

PA1106031688 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Report on statements by General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Staff; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, has inaugurated a surgical ward in the Military Hospital named for Corporal Jesus Parada Majano. Parada Majano is a war hero who was killed defending the Salvadoran people.

This is the third 80-bed ward to be built with Defense Ministry funds.

[Blandon, in progress] "...to be a citizen, but to serve the country in difficult, momentous times is not only a duty and an honor, but also a real privilege."

The general later referred to the results of operations being carried out by the Army, stating that the most important is underway in Chalatenango, where the Army is attempting to destabilize rebel organizations. Another operation is being carried out in Usulutan, with the specific objective of ensuring the department's economic recovery.

[Blandon] "In my opinion, the results are satisfactory. The conflict has undoubtedly taken an important new turn. The terrorists are avoiding clashes. They devote themselves exclusively to terrorist acts, at times utilizing

small units, and the Armed Forces' response has also been adapted to the circumstances. I believe that the operations in both Chalatenango and Usulutan have had the positive results that the General Staff expected."

In addition, Gen Blandon mentioned the delay in the dialogue between the political parties and the guerrilla groups.

[Blandon] "I do not know exactly why ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] withdrew from the dialogue. Perhaps it would be presumptuous of me to express an opinion, because I do not know what the gentlemen of ARENA are thinking.

"What I could say, and repeat, is that all attempts at a dialogue, every attempt to pacify the country that is aborted is a step backward."

Gen Blandon said that because of the security forces' activities, violence is decreasing. He added that the Armed Forces do not have enough personnel to meet the demand for vigilance nationwide, but through a system of mobility it provides the country with relative protection.

Armed Forces Seize Explosives From FMLN Camps
PA1506135588 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] Yesterday Armed Forces units found large amounts of explosives and material for manufacturing explosives when they dismantled two camps set up by terrorists near Jucuapa and Jucuaran, Usulutan Department.

Troops from the Oromontique Battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade reported that during a search near La Trinidad farm in Jucuapa jurisdiction, they found an FMLN camp with 300 booby-trap mine mechanisms, 50 pounds of powdered aluminum, 14 pounds of fragmented iron, 15 booby-trap mines, and other materials used to make the mines.

Atonal Battalion soldiers also destroyed another terrorist camp near Jucuaran, where they found 12 explosive traps, 168 fuses, 6 yards of wire, a potent "death-ray" mine weighing approximately 5 pounds, and other war materiel.

Meanwhile, 4th Infantry Brigade spokesmen reported the death of an FMLN member in a clash with between Azmitia Battalion troops and FMLN groups. The armed clash occurred close to Los Llanitos in San Fernando, Chalatenango Department, where soldiers confiscated an M-16 rifle with cartridges and ammunition.

The Atlacatl Battalion also reported that a soldier and a terrorist were wounded in a clash near El Cutal in Dulce Nombre de Maria municipality, also in Chalatenango Department.

On Friday morning, terrorist groups kidnapped Dolores Andrade and her children: Carlos, 13 years old, and Yazmin Lissette Andrade, 15 months old.

The victims were abducted in La Quesera, San Vicente Department, according to reports from the 5th Infantry Brigade, stationed in that department.

In other acts of vandalism, the rebels destroyed a freight truck and a pickup truck belonging to the Foramides company, which performs drilling work in Montanita, Mercedes Umana municipality, Usulutan Department.

Another rebel group set fire to a farm tractor at the La Esmeralda farm in the same municipality. They also destroyed nine telephone poles, affecting communications in the area.

San Salvador, 13 June 1988

Ex-Army Captain on Role of Armed Forces
PA1406152788 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Interview with former Army Captain Francisco Emilio Mena Sandoval, alias FMLN Commander Manolo, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Nine years have passed since the 15 October 1979 coup, and today there are rumors of a possible coup by the Armed Forces. Those rumors have become more insistent since 20 March. However, recently General Vides Casanova said the most difficult period and the danger of a coup have passed. What is your opinion of Vides Casanova's statement?

[Mena Sandoval] I believe we should refer to some of the points in the statement made by the Armed Forces after the 1979 coup. It refers to a time of crisis. I believe we should ask ourselves whether at this moment, as Gen Vides Casanova says, the crisis is over. We must ask ourselves if the country's political, social, and economic crisis really has been solved. We can say that the Army's role in the war has failed because it has not tried to resolve its specific problems. This is not the time to say there is no longer a danger of a coup. It is time to ask if the progressive sector within the Armed Forces is willing to fulfill what was outlined in that statement [words indistinct]. It is time to ask ourselves if we are correctly interpreting the progressive officers' unity with the people.

It is equally important to emphasize—at this time when no solution has been found to the political, economic, and social crisis—that we should begin discussing our real problems. If the Armed Forces do this internally, however, it is regarded as a move against that institution.

Those officers who honestly want to save the Armed Forces must join the people's interests. The soldiers who are fighting are part of our people. They are the ones who are dying in this war; their relatives are the ones who are enduring this crisis. Problems have not been resolved. How can Gen Vides Casanova—who has played the same role since 1979 along with the traitors and has not

resolved the country's problems—now say that the danger of a coup is over? He has his own idea of a coup. Perhaps he is afraid of the real solutions and of the real awakening of the Armed Forces officers. It is a sham. Gen Vides Casanova is trying to conceal the truth. He is trying to convince officers that they must understand the difficult period the country is facing and that they must maintain their unity. There is no doubt, however, that this unity would only lead to the destruction of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In response to the crisis the country is experiencing and to the failure of the counterinsurgency plan, recently Colonel Majano said that the Americans are confused and no longer know what to do with the counterinsurgency plan [words indistinct]. What do you think of Col Majano's statements?

[Mena Sandoval] The Americans certainly are confused. I would say they are defeated. They have confronted a people who had decided to not submit to them. They have tried to resolve social problems with the use of force, which is impossible. I believe their intentions have been revealed in the course of the war.

The Americans did not find solutions to the problems of war in El Salvador. What they found was defeat at our people's hands. In this regard, they have used the Army as a tool to resolve problems by force. They have used the Christian Democrats, personified by Duarte, to cover up their true intentions. This has prevented the development of the 15 October 1979 plan. The military has followed a counterinsurgency plan it believed would resolve the basic problems, but this plan has only attempted to use force to annihilate the people's forces. This has gradually been understood by some soldiers. They must have gradually come to see that our nation's social problems cannot be resolved by force.

Let us go back to the past and ask why the United States welcomed the [Colonel Arturo Armando] Molina and [General Carlos Humberto] Romero governments. Let us go back to that era and ask why, despite their honest concern, many soldiers could not find the right path. We must remember all the efforts mentioned in the 15 October military statement. At that time, when several of the comrades united, among them Comrade Marcelo Cruz Cruz [words indistinct], we took the same path, remembering Captain Molina Panameno. [Words indistinct] that group of patriotic officers now represent a symbol of the true concerns that were lost on 15 October 1979. Vides Casanova and the U.S. leaders betrayed this movement.

Many years of war have passed and officers leading their forces in combat have given their lives. Right now the United States, Gen Vides Casanova, and the members of the High Command are trying to eliminate the opening that emerged around 1979. This opening continued in 1980 at the Assembly, where we tried through talks, discussions, and consensus to arrive at true solutions that would serve a purpose in this country. Young officers today only receive orders to lead their men into battle. They give their lives without knowing or without being able to argue [words indistinct]. They are far from the true objective pursued in the 15 October statement. The time has come to wake up; the time has come to discuss with the officers the true solutions needed to solve the national crisis.

[Reporter] In conclusion, Commander Mena Sandoval, what is your message to the Army at this time?

[Mena Sandoval] First, I would like the Army to know that I am here with the people, with Commander Marcelo Cruz Cruz, with whom I shared this experience. We have fulfilled our hopes of struggling for social justice for our people. I think it is important to ask the soldiers to follow the principles of the 15 October 1979 military statement. This new meeting with our people is important. We are experiencing a phase of struggle that will allow us to achieve the true objective of social justice. This should be the objective of the soldiers who follow the principles of the 15 October 1979 statement. The objective is to resolve this country's problems.

Ungo Condemns U.S. 'Aggression' in Region

PA1506161188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, FDR and MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] leader of El Salvador, believes that the United States cannot be judge and defendant in the Panamanian conflict.

After harshly criticizing the repressive Christian Democratic government of El Salvador, Ungo said all Panamanians must find solutions to their own problems:

[Begin Ungo recording] Latin America increasingly supports the need for this problem to be resolved by Panamanians themselves. I believe there are countries and governments that have not yet expressed themselves very clearly against the aggression promoted by the United States, which wants to become a judge and wants to decide the fate of our peoples and countries. In this regard, I believe there is increasing conscience, pressure, and interest for a solution to be found soon to the political and economic situation in Panama. I believe the lack of dialogue and the lack of understanding is regrettable.

In that regard, I believe that despite our involvement in a war and despite the massive, violent repression that has resulted in the assassination of over 60,000 Salvadorans, we have always supported the search for roads to dialogue and negotiation leading to a political solution. In that regard, the Salvadoran archbishop himself has received credibility, the trust of both sides; however, the other Salvadoran bishops have not received that support because they identify themselves with the rightist positions of the government. [end recording]

Guatemala

Army Denies Drugs Charges by CERIGUA

PA1406042088 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Jun 88 p 6

[Excerpt] The Guatemalan Army has rejected as "false, biased, and illogical" the accusations by the CERIGUA news agency that the Guatemalan Army supplies marijuana.

"CERIGUA issues bulletins that are far from the truth," Guatemalan Army spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez said.

In a letter sent to our office, the Army said that CERIGUA, a mouthpiece of the terrorist subversion, issued a bulletin on 7 June accusing the Army of supplying marijuana, adding that to do this the Army has marijuana plantations near the Mexican border.

It noted that the Army has boldly fought in a campaign against drugs and drug traffickers who are in collusion with terrorists. [passage omitted]

LA EPOCA, News Agency Operations Suspended

PA1506210588 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon newsman Byron Barrera, who returned to the country from self-imposed exile when the democratic government took power in January 1986, announced that the weekly LA EPOCA and the ACENSIAG [CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY-GUATEMALAN INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SERVICE—AGENCIA CENTROAMERICANA DE NOTICIAS Y SERVICIO INFORMATIVO Y DE ANALISIS DE GUATEMALA] news agency would suspend operations. Barrera said this was a result of an attack on his office, in which at least 15 people tried to completely destroy it. [passage omitted]

The terrorist attack against LA EPOCA and ACENSIAG, which happened last Friday, took place under very suspicious circumstances. The extremists were looking for the weekly's reporters, editors, and director Byron Barrera. Fortunately the staff had left early because the weekly had been printed very early that day.

Barrera said times are not right for publishing the weekly, which was to become a daily newspaper. This is a sign of the lack of guarantees for all journalists' safety. They are not able to work in these times of tension in which the extreme right has again unleashed its death squads on the streets, causing fear among journalists.

'Apprehension' in Media

PA1406041788 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Jun 88 p 9

[Editorial: "Climate of Insecurity Increases in Journalistic Circles"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday's terrorist attacks against the weekly LA EPOCA and the CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWS AGENCY, whose offices and equipment were destroyed by a fire set by unknown arsonists after they distributed and lit flammable materials, have increased apprehension within local journalistic circles. The media have interpreted the actions as new acts of intimidation against the social communications media and new violations of the freedom of the press in Guatemala. Yesterday the Association of Guatemalan Journalists, APG, and the Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism, CGP, strongly condemned this incident and are demanding that the government conduct a thorough investigation and punish the guilty, while providing security to the media and respect for the freedom of expression.

The climate of peace and tranquillity that one should expect during a democratic government has been suddenly disrupted by a series of actions against the communications media and the freedom of expression. Threats have been made against several journalists and attacks have been carried out against a TASS correspondent, the Mario Andrade Lopez Journalists House, and now against the weekly LA EPOCA. The unheard of action of closing television Channel 3 and the pressure exerted to force the cancellation of the "Here's the World" newscast have placed in serious doubt the existence of adequate guarantees for the freedom to practice journalism under Guatemala's supposedly democratic system. One of the things that strengthens democracy is precisely the complete respect for the freedom of expression and ideological pluralism, which should be expressed through the existence of political parties representing the nation's different ideologies and by the media, so that these ideas can be freely expressed. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Tinoco Comments on Talks With Contras

PA1506123688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Jun 88 p 3

[Interview with Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by unidentified BARRICADA reporter—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] The government proposed a schedule to be followed. Was this schedule also subject to verification?

[Tinoco] There is a footnote that states that the schedule is subject to verification by the commission appointed to supervise the implementation of the Sapoa agreements.

This means that Ambassador Joao Baena Soares and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo would be responsible for ensuring that both parties are abiding by the agreements signed.

The fact that the schedule would be subject to verification would also prove that the Nicaraguan Government's proposal is a serious, constructive, and reasonable proposal aimed at achieving a permanent cease-fire.

The problem is that the contras were determined to accept nothing, to sign nothing. This is why they presented that crazy proposal, a proposal that is not only absurd but removed from the intent of the Sapoa agreements.

[Reporter] Why is the contra proposal so absurd?

[Tinoco] First, the Nicaraguan Government suggested that both parties approve an extension of the cease-fire deadline previously agreed upon. The contras turned this down. We also suggested that the Pan-American Development Foundation be responsible for the distribution of all emergency and temporary aid to the contras. They also opposed this. Moreover, we suggested ratification of the Sapoa agreements; and they also turned this down. When we talked about the kidnapped people, Bermudez felt pressured and said that they would be released on 19 July.

Now we are waiting to see if they will keep their promise to release the kidnapped citizens, because Bermudez promised this in private, not in public. We would not be surprised if he went back on his word; it would not be the first time.

[Reporter] During private talks with the contras, did they ever suggest the possibility of leaving a window open for future negotiations?

[Tinoco] They have said they "are maintaining their negotiating spirit" or "are maintaining their willingness to resolve problems through negotiations." However, those are abstract and ambiguous statements, because they disregard Sapoa, the only existing framework for negotiations, and they will not set a date for the next meeting. When you really think about this, you will realize that nothing specific has been said. It is one thing to claim that you are willing to negotiate, and yet another to refuse to set a date for future meetings and to try to kill the only agreements there have ever been: the Sapoa agreements.

The logic behind all this—their position follows along the same lines as Bermudez' and the U.S. Administration's warmongering stance—is probably as follows: Well, since Sapoa no longer exists, the commitments signed—such as the one that only asks for humanitarian aid—are no longer valid. If Sapoa ceases to exist, then they will be free to ask for military aid and continue their war against Nicaragua; this is most likely what they will try to do this week.

[Reporter] However, analysts say that the U.S. Congress cannot accept such a request right now because its sessions will end in September. U.S. congressmen already have 13 budget requests and other bills to discuss, and the discussion of aid would take them approximately 2 weeks. Furthermore, given the lack of a specific Central American agenda, the discussion of this topic becomes a thorny issue.

[Tinoco] Yes, this is not an easy situation for the contras, because they are breaking off negotiations at a time when it is obvious that they alone are responsible for the talks breaking down and that the government's attitude is flexible. The truth is that the contras comprise various factions that see no political future for themselves, and thus they want to violate the Sapoa agreements and to return to the times when they received military aid.

Although difficult, we cannot rule out the possibility that at any time they [the U.S. Congress] may introduce a resolution or find a technical or juridical mechanism to do it [pass a contra military aid bill] quickly, at the last minute. The problem is that the current political situation might allow them to do just that.

We trust that the U.S. Congress is reasonable enough to see that a renewal of military aid to the contras would mean returning to the situation that prevailed in Central America before Esquipulas, in terms of confrontation and the revolution's need to defend itself. What would the Americans be doing if they play this game? They would simply be encouraging a Central American situation even worse than the one that prevailed prior to Esquipulas. This means that the Reagan administration's legacy to the new U.S. president would be a Central America in disastrous condition; an acute and unresolved crisis in El Salvador; very serious problems for the United States in Panama; and a completely discredited and bankrupt policy toward Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, certain people have said that there were certain "goodwill gestures," including Elliott Abrams' greetings and certain contacts with the embassy [not further identified]. Were these also part of the same maneuver?

[Tinoco] This kind of situation has arisen but, if you see everything within the right context, you will arrive at the conclusion that this was all part of a maneuver to disguise the ultimate U.S. goal—specifically, to destroy and disrupt the Sapoa process. The U.S. Administration had already issued instructions to kill Sapoa; it tried to avoid responsibility somehow and to claim that it was interested in achieving peace. The U.S. Administration tried to show goodwill precisely because of these aims and because it wanted to blame us for the talks' disruption later on. However, their plan backfired, given the way the contras disrupted the talks. It is clear that the responsibility is theirs [the U.S. Administration's].

[Reporter] Today a Colombian radio station broadcast statements made by Democrat Party candidate Michael Dukakis implying that war is not advisable. What are Nicaragua's current relations with U.S. Democrats?

[Tinoco] Our relations with the Democratic Party are basically at the congressional level. We understand that the Democratic Party's majority and certain Republican Party sectors oppose a renewal of military aid. Let us wait and see how the U.S. Administration will maneuver around this and if the contras will claim that the meeting was a failure because of Nicaragua's stubborn attitude. We think that everything clearly demonstrates that the counterrevolutionary leadership and the Reagan administration are equally responsible, because we cannot possibly believe that the counterrevolutionary leadership would become independent or isolated from the U.S. Administration. That is why certain U.S. officials' apparently friendly gestures are nothing to us but a smokescreen to cover up the main target: the destruction of Sapoa. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Commenting on the talks, today Cardinal Obando y Bravo said that what happened was caused by a lack of mutual trust and the two sides' different concepts of democracy. Would you comment on this opinion?

[Tinoco] The problem is that abstract discussions on democracy lead nowhere; that is why the proposal mentions specific commitments and why there is a specific outline of topics for a national dialogue. If we begin to discuss democracy here, we get tangled up, because Sandinist revolutionary democracy could mean one thing, and we do not even know what democracy means to the contras. Is it Bermudez' democracy? Is it the democracy of the Somozist National Guard? Is it a return to the past? Our agenda for the national dialogue contains specific points for discussion in order to avoid abstract discussions.

Therefore, the problem at the meeting was not that there were differences on the concept of democracy, but that the contras lack the political commitment to reach an agreement. How can there be a commitment when they make a completely absurd proposal 2 hours before leaving? At 1400 on 9 June they presented their proposal to the Nicaraguan Government. They were leaving at 1600. In addition, the problem was not one of time, as they say. Otherwise, why did they not set a date for the next meeting? Here is where one realizes that they wanted to close and undo Sapoa. Had they truly wanted to hold a discussion, they would have stayed 1 or 2 more days; they would have scheduled another meeting to discuss their proposal no matter how illogical or absurd it may be.

Therefore, I repeat that the problem is not one of differences of concepts but of a political commitment to advance or not to advance, to end or not to end the war permanently. We must not forget that the contras have many sectors that have made the war a "modus vivendi" that is profitable; it is nice. They wage war from Miami and get paid in dollars. They have no special interest in returning to this country, working as honest citizens and participating in politics.

[Reporter] Was their proposal definitively rejected, or is the Nicaraguan Government ready to meet again and discuss this topic, including the timetable?

[Tinoco] The proposal was rejected. It was pointed out that it is completely absurd and that the majority of its points come from Sapoa. However, that does not mean we cannot discuss the points and present our arguments about them.

During the meeting, we proposed to the contras to set a date for the next meeting, and they did not want to. Now they have to tell us if they want another meeting and when, and we will begin the talks.

We think we must start again based on what we have already achieved. We must continue promoting the Sapoa process without stepping out of the terms of the agreement, as the contras have attempted. If they now insist on their proposal, we too can make another proposal on the other extreme. For example, we can tell them that no Somozist guardsman will leave jail until the rebels surrender.... If we go to those extremes, we will not reach anything. This is a matter of resuming the talks within the framework of the agreements that have already been reached.

Bermudez Comments on Talks With Government

PA1506221888 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Jun 88 p 45

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, Honduras—Colonel Enrique Bermudez, military leader of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, said that the recent talks with the Sandinists failed because the proposals presented by the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) were answered "with promises and ramblings."

"Commander 3.80" explained that "whenever we tried to lead the discussion toward the main point of our proposal, democratization in Nicaragua, the Sandinists would avoid the topic or beat around the bush."

Bermudez added that during the last meeting with the Sandinists, the RN asked for "a general amnesty, a 90-day end to conscription, supplies for our forces, a separation of the Army and the FSLN, freedom of expression, the right to operate a television station (while this was being done, the Sandinists would allow us to use the state-run television station), and changes within the Electoral Council and the Supreme Court of Justice. All these changes would be made within a specified time frame and the Verification Commission would ensure that this was being done. Once these requests were granted, we would lay down our weapons," Bermudez said.

The contra leader said "we reached no agreement and suspended the talks because the Sandinists would not give us specific answers."

Bermudez stressed that he had participated in the talks with the Sandinists because the Sandinists had previously said that reaching agreements with the contra political leadership was useless unless the [RN] military leadership was also present.

"Since the Sandinists had used the excuse that my presence was necessary to reach an agreement, I decided to attend the talks. We demanded democratic reforms, and they made a mistake when they refused to accept our demands. We are only waiting for this crisis to pass before deciding on future actions," Bermudez added.

Bermudez refused to comment on charges made by the contra commanders who led the uprising against Bermudez and who demanded his resignation. The contra commanders claimed that most members of the RN General Staff, which is headed by Bermudez, are officers of the extinct Somozist National Guard.

The contra military leader recalled that similar situations have occurred in the recent past. On this occasion, the crisis was caused by groups of anti-Sandinists who chose to withdraw from the organization and who gathered in Honduras, especially in Yamales, El Paraiso Department.

"We have had problems in the past, and we have always been able to resolve them; an example of this is Arturo Cruz' departure. I feel that our dignity has been enhanced by my presence at the negotiations with the Sandinists." [passage omitted]

Ferrey Briefs Presidents on Talks Withdrawal

PA1506233988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1950 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Azucena Ferrey, member of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate, said that the hegemonic struggle being waged between the Soviet Union and the United States in Nicaragua since 1979 "prevents democratization in Central America."

The RN leader arrived in Guatemala today to meet with President Vinicio Cerezo. She has already met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Honduran President Jose Azcona, and acting Salvadoran President Rodolfo Castillo.

In the meetings, she explained to the presidents the reasons for the RN withdrawal from the talks with the Sandinist government. She said that they [the presidents] expressed "recognition of the RN's efforts to reach a peace agreement."

Ferrey said that the RN has decided to not resume offensive military operations and she confirmed its willingness to find civilized solutions to the Nicaraguan crisis, adding that the RN is not willing to continue talks if there is no "possibility of achieving solutions."

She said that the RN's "obvious willingness" is shown by the fact that "we have held 24 rounds of talks in 8 months." However, she added that these "have been unsuccessful because of the Sandinists' refusal to fulfill commitments."

Ferrey said that the RN believes that this fulfillment must fall within the spirit of the Esquipulas, Alajuela, and Sapoa agreements, which seek the achievement of authentic democratization throughout Central America.

She added that because of this, actions that the area presidents undertake to diplomatically pressure the Nicaraguan Government are "important in achieving a dialogue that will lead to a cease-fire agreement."

"Daniel Ortega lost a golden opportunity, because the RN was willing to lay down weapons when the 60-day temporary cease-fire agreed upon in Sapoa expired," Ferrey said.

She added that part of the "offensive" that the RN is now undertaking includes visits to U.S. congressmen and to other countries by RN Directorate leaders.

Responding to questions from ACAN-EFE, Azucena Ferrey said that the RN is not willing to continue talks in Nicaraguan territory "because we were virtually imprisoned, threatened, and spied on."

She recounted that Defense Minister Humberto Ortega even threatened to "hang us from the lampposts of Managua" and said that "not only would the peasants who support the RN be fired upon, but also the leaders, wherever they may be." [passage omitted]

"We are willing to maintain the truce, even though we know that it permits Sandinism to supply its troops by land and air without fear of ambushes because our weapons are silent," she said.

She added that she could not be sure about "how long we will maintain this position; this will be decided and announced by the Directorate soon." However, she warned that "if we are attacked, we will defend ourselves."

She admitted that it "is hard to foresee a victory over Sandinism if only weapons are used," because that was not achieved "even under Anastasio Somoza's weak dictatorship."

She stressed that to achieve victory, one needs "not only military aid, but also diplomatic pressure from the democratic governments, something that we are now seeking with these visits made to brief them."

RN Commander: Reports Show War 'Resuming'

PA1506003088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Report by Alejandro Acevedo]

[Text] In reaction to EPS recruitment activities carried out in Nicaragua's northern, central, and southern areas, dozens of peasants have joined various guerrilla forces operating there. The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Northern Front's Strategic Command has said that in April alone, 237 civilians from Matagalpa, northern Zelaya, and Jinotega have joined the guerrillas. They chose to join the rebel columns instead of the EPS. These civilians said that they escaped from various bases in areas known as Lago de Apanas, Tomatoya, and Mulukuku. Most of them joined the Santiago Mesa Regional Command. This information was supplied by Commander Hombrito.

We also want to report that there have been a number of attacks on rebel strongholds. In the (Monteormon) area in northern Zelaya, two attacks against the Jorge Salazar No 4 Regional Command were reported. We also want to report another attack on [as heard] soldiers of the EPS' 361st Brigade in Nahuahuas. The EPS actions seek to deplete the freedom fighters' ammunition supplies. The EPS also wants to inflict casualties on or remove the guerrilla forces from their areas of operation.

Commander Aureliano, general assistant to the RN's army commander, provides details of combat actions in which the RN was forced to participate because of Sandinist attacks.

[Begin Aureliano recording] We are receiving reports from various battlefronts. The reports indicate that the war is resuming. This resumption was by order of the Sandinist regime [words indistinct] against those troops that are defending themselves. Our troops are [words indistinct] and stationed in areas. The Sandinist regime attacked them there. We are not prepared to stop fighting [words indistinct]. [end recording]

This was a report by Commander Aureliano. Moreover, we want to report that in Cano Blanco, El Aparejo, and other localities, the EPS has been carrying out artillery attacks. This was reported by the commander of one of the RN army units.

Also, it has been reported that since 7 June, to be exact, the EPS has been using heavy artillery, especially BM-21 artillery, against San Jorge, (El Murion), El Chacalin, (Mata de Maiz), (Flor del Sur), and (El Jardin) in Zelaya Department. In addition, EPS troops have constantly attacked rebel concentrations in that area. Therefore, several areas in Nicaragua have begun to feel the effects of the war as a result of the EPS' indiscriminate mortar-fire attacks.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1506182088 Prague CTK in English 1654 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Managua June 15 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek arrived here today on an official friendly visit to Nicaragua.

The minister arrived in Nicaragua from Cuba.

Bohuslav Chnoupek's visit to Nicaragua is the first ever visit of a Czechoslovak foreign minister to this Central American country.

Although diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Nicaragua were formally established in 1930, their revival and elevation to the level of embassies came only after the victory of the Sandinista revolution in 1979. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has visited Czechoslovakia twice since then—in 1984 and 1985. Bohuslav Chnoupek's visit is the first step towards a reciprocal exchange of visits by top-level delegations.

Czechoslovakia showed many a time its solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the Somoza dictatorship, and since the victory of the revolution has been providing all-round assistance to the progressive Nicaraguan Government continuously threatened by the intentions of U.S. imperialism in Central America. Czechoslovakia's material and humanitarian aid to Nicaragua is the biggest provided by Czechoslovakia to any country of the developing world. It includes health utensils, food, consumer goods, and also stays of Czechoslovak doctors, geologists, veterinary surgeons and agricultural experts who contribute to reconstruction, stabilization and development of the country's economy. The trade turnover between the two countries reached 19 million U.S. dollars last year of which 17 million dollars were accounted for by Czechoslovak exports.

Czechoslovakia actively supports the policy of the Sandinist government based on the principles of national reconciliation and peaceful settlement. Markedly extended has been solidarity between the two countries' social organizations associating youth, trade unions and women. Czechoslovakia also enables treatment of those Nicaraguans, who were wounded in fightings, in Czechoslovak hospitals and spas. Besides this, several hundred Nicaraguan students study at Czechoslovak institutions of higher learning.

During his visit to Managua, the Czechoslovak foreign minister is to sign the first interstate consular agreement aimed at further streamlining relations between the two countries.

Meets With D'Escoto

LD1606090788 Prague CTK in English 0818 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Managua June 16 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek opened talks with his Nicaraguan counterpart Miguel D'Escoto on bilateral relations on Wednesday.

At the close of the discussions the ministers signed a consular agreement between the two countries.

Bohuslav Chnoupek and Miguel D'Escoto expressed satisfaction with the very good level of Czechoslovak-Nicaraguan relations and their successful development in all spheres. Top-level contacts are of extraordinary importance for the extension of political relations, great attention is being paid to economic cooperation, scientific-technological and cultural cooperation continues in harmony with agreements concluded between the two countries and contacts between socialist organizations are developing successfully.

The Czechoslovak side re-affirmed its full solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people for independence and sovereignty, and its full support for the effort of the Nicaraguan Government aimed at national conciliation and a peaceful settlement of the situation in Central America.

The ministers voiced the conviction that the consular agreement will contribute to more intensive exchange of persons, cultural values and experiences and to a better mutual knowledge between the two nations.

At a dinner, the Nicaraguan minister expressed gratitude for Czechoslovakia's solidarity with the fighting Nicaragua. He stressed the flexible attitude of the Sandinista governent to the talks with the leaders of counter-revolution in the last few months. "Nicaragua will strive to carry on the process started with the Sapoa talks last March". The present moment of a relative "though fragile peace has to be prolonged. The Nicaraguan Government will not be the first to start offensive operations", he declared.

Bohuslav Chnoupek described Nicaragua as a symbol of struggle for freedom and underlined the constructive character of Nicaraguan steps aimed at internal peace and a settlement in Central America. Although a political settlement is difficult, "it is the only correct one and the present changed international atmosphere is creating favourable conditions for it", the minister said.

CONAPRO Leader Praises Economic Measures

PA1406034588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1920 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Report on interview with Freddy Cruz, president of the Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations (CONAPRO), with unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Freddy Cruz, president of CONAPRO, has said in an exclusive interview with Radio Informaciones that the economic measures announced by President Daniel Ortega on Saturday are realistic and objective. Cruz said that profitability of enterprises will be the basic factor in determining the wage increases of certain economic sectors, as long as productivity and, consequently, production, remain high.

The Heroes and Martyrs CONAPRO leader said that the president's announcement of these economic measures tends to give priority to enterprises that are truly profitable. He said that in the past the policy had been egalitarian and had encompassed enterprises of varying levels of efficiency. However, he admitted that the lack of efficiency in some enterprises has been due to the lack of a steady supply of working materials and the fact that some enterprises are using machinery that is completely obsolete.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Freddy, we would like you to explain whether the economic measures announced on Saturday by the Nicaraguan executive represent a return to what is known as a free market economy.

[Cruz] Well, I believe that the deregulation of prices is a sound measure, because costs are very high. For example, we have a very high level of imports. The country imports some $1 billion worth of products while exporting only some $200 million, and a great percentage of these imports comes from capitalist countries, which causes inflation. This has an immediate impact on the costs incurred by enterprises. It is therefore unrealistic to attempt to control prices when costs are extremely variable as a result of import costs and domestic inflation.

I believe that while it is true that costs... [corrects himself] or rather prices will be adjusted here, it will not be done with the lack of restraint [libertinage] that occurs in free market or capitalist economies. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The people say that along with the announcement of these new economic measures, there has been an increase in the cost of a number of services, products, and so on, which would seem to lead to inflation. What can you tell us about that?

[Cruz] Well, we have inflation. One must notice that the economic reforms were not designed to halt inflation. That inflation exists and will continue to exist. I believe that the beneficial effect here is that the main factors that distorted the economy and that generated inflation are truly being brought under control.

Three basic factors should be pointed out here: the fiscal deficit is being reduced, despite the war and production problems; the declining exchange rate problem is being eliminated; and the problem of investments being out of proportion with the country's economic potential has also been reduced. This necessarily has an impact on inflation levels. [Passage omitted] Inflation is continuing, but the important thing is that it is no longer spiraling at its previous rate. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What will be the effect [of these new economic measures] on the exchange rate?

[Cruz] Well, I believe that the exchange rate has been gradually adjusted. [passage omitted] The government has been making these adjustments, and I believe it intends to continue doing so to ensure that the exchange rate will not have a prohibitive effect on production for domestic consumption and exports. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opposition Support

PA1406185788 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1717 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Jun (REUTER)—Today opposition spokesmen described President Daniel Ortega's announcement that price and wage controls would be lifted as positive and supportive of private enterprise.

Enrique Bolanos, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), who in the past has accused the Sandinist government of leaning toward Marxism-Leninism, stated that the measures are a step in the right direction for free enterprise.

Yesterday Ortega announced the end of a mechanism that establishes obligatory wage levels for private and state enterprises. This organization, known as "SNOTS" [National Labor and Wages Organization], was broadly criticized by businessmen and labor organizations.

According to the new policy, the SNOTS will remain as a "nonobligatory reference" and companies that make sufficient profits can pay better wages," Ortega said. [quotation marks as received]

Leaders of the General Confederation of Independent Workers, who have been heading a 3-month-long strike by construction workers to protest the recently lifted wage controls, praised the measure, calling it a victory for the workers. They did not, however, announce an end to the strike.

Antonio Bonilla, spokesman for the 14 opposition parties that are demanding that the government carry out constitutional reforms leading to democracy, praised the measure but said it was belated.

Bonilla also welcomed the announcement that the Sandinist Defense Committees (CDS) would cease to be parastatal organizations that act as intermediaries for citizens who need to visit government offices; however, both he and other opposition leaders said that the term "Sandinist" should be deleted from the title of those committees, which operate in all neighborhoods of Nicaraguan cities.

The opposition leaders suggested that the committees be known as Civil Defense Committees, as they were called months prior to the Sandinists' rise to power in 1979 after the overthrow of the late General Anastasio Somoza Debayle. [passage omitted]

Government Increases Wages 30 Percent

PA1506192588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1811 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Communique issued by the Planning and Wages General Directorate of the Labor Ministry—date and place not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Labor Ministry hereby informs the country's employees and employers:

1. The Nicaraguan Government has taken wage measures aimed at promoting the production sector and has decided to let unbudgeted enterprises [empresas no presupuestadas] improve workers' salaries according to the levels of production and efficiency those enterprises reach.

To that effect, employers will be allowed to decide on the kind and percentage of incentives they will grant their employees in accordance with the results of their own economic efforts.

2. In view of wage deterioration, but also taking into account the impossibility of increasing wages by large sums, the government approved a 30-percent wage increase in accordance with a ministerial resolution issued on 1 June 1988.

[Signed] Nicaraguan Labor Ministry Planning and Wages General Directorate

Diplomatic Ties Established With Philippines

PA1406203788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Nicaragua and the Philippines have formally established diplomatic relations. Comrade Jorge Huezo Castillo, Nicaraguan ambassador to Japan, will serve concurrently in the Philippines.

Two days ago, Mrs Corazon Aquino's government faced pressure from the U.S. Government, which tried to stop the Philippines from inviting Nicaragua to a conference on democracy.

Panama

Msgr McGrath on Dialogue, Church Mediation

PA1506135188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] During a lecture to the members of the southern Panama chapter of the Rotary Club, Panama Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath has said that the

crisis will not be solved simply by enduring it while postponing political solutions through a genuine dialogue to overcome the problems faced by the country.

The head of the metropolitan curia warned that without the will of the parties, there cannot be dialogue or mediation by the church to overcome the crisis.

McGrath's approach to the subject was based on the views expressed during the recent eucharistic event, at which calls were made for reconciliation and reconstruction of the country:

[Begin McGrath recording, in progress] ...but the dialogue must be among Panamanians because it involves Panama, and I think every dialogue toward the north is disruptive. Above all, we have been left without dialogue at this moment because of the way this has been handled by the United States. We do not think the church should present itself to mediate, because this is not possible if both sides do not clearly show and maintain the will to do so. This applies not only to the church but to anyone who would serve in this capacity. Maybe no mediation would be required, but it is indeed urgent that talks be proposed responsibly.

However, what we want to say is that to endure is not a solution. Every one of you could deliver a lecture better than I could concerning what will happen if the political crisis is not solved within 2, 3, or 6 months. It is being said in interviews on all television channels that the nation's reserves are going to be depleted. This means reserves in every sense of the word—economic, moral, and social reserves.

Therefore, it is imperative that the responsible parties approach this matter with a desire to find a solution and that they keep hammering at it until a dialogue is held and a solution is found. [end recording]

PDC's Arias on L.A. Efforts To End Crisis

PA1506180788 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0422 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 14 Jun (REUTER)—Today a Panamanian opposition leader stated that the Latin American democracies are seeking to join efforts to put an end to the crisis regarding military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], spoke to newsmen at this city's airport, where he arrived after meeting with Guatemalan politicians and legislators over the weekend.

"I noticed they are quite concerned over the fact that the Panamanian regime has thus far rejected the good offices of the Latin American democracies," Arias Calderon stated.

"The Latin American leaders are engaged in a process of consultation, seeking to unite their efforts," he stated.

Arias Calderon said he met with President Vinicio Cerezo, who recently offered his "good offices" to promote dialogue among all Panamanians.

Former presidents of Colombia and Venezuela have offered to help the crisis by mediating between the United States and Panama.

Arias Calderon said it is up to the Panamanian Government to take the first step toward the dialogue.

Last week, however, the Panamanian foreign minister issued a statement thanking the regional leaders for their efforts, but stating that Panama will resolve its problems on its own. [passage omitted]

13 Foreign Ministry Employees Dismissed

PA1406193888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has dismissed 13 employees, including 7 members of its Foreign Service.

The decision was announced in executive decrees signed by President Manuel Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter.

The ministry employees who have been dismissed are: Ruth M. Decerega, assistant permanent representative at the UN offices in Geneva, Switzerland; Reinaldo Serna, agricultural attache at the Panamanian Embassy in Costa Rica, who had never been accredited; Narciso Alberto Gonzalez Zachrisson, attache at the Panamanian Embassy in Bogota, Colombia; and Olmedo Alvarez Guillen, attache at the Panamanian Embassy in Bogota, Colombia.

The following people were dismissed from the Panamanian Embassy in Lima, Peru: Vice Consul Alicia I. Porras, Honorary Attache Orlando Lopez, and Cultural Attache Antonio Hernandez Sanchez.

Other Foreign Ministry officials dismissed are: Foreign Ministry adviser Carlos Constantino Arosemena and Foreign Ministry Secretary Marylin Selhorn. Instructor Laura de Montule has been retired. Foreign Ministry security officers Ilmar Rodriguez, Concepcion Gonzalez, and German Rivera were also dismissed.

Molirena Demands Return of Expatriated Leader

PA1306205788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2209 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Panama City, 13 Jun (DPA)—Today Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement], the third largest Panamanian opposition party, announced that it will demand the return to the country of its secretary general, Luis Casco Arias, who was detained and sent back to Miami last night. Casco Arias was returning from a "vacation" in Miami.

"We are taking every step to ensure that the sacred constitutional right that forbids the expatriation of Panamanians is respected," Molirena President Alfredo Ramirez said.

Ramirez said the party has called a permanent emergency meeting until Casco Arias and his wife are allowed to return to the country.

Family members said Casco Arias and his wife were sent back to Miami last night after being detained at the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport in Panama City for several hours.

Minister Espino on 'Campaign' Against Imports

PA1206124988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jun 88

[Text] Agricultural Development [MIDA] Minister Darisnel Espino has asserted before the Cocle Provincial Coordination Council that the central government will not allow imports of products Panama produces. Espino said that the primary aim is to help producers; therefore, an aggressive campaign has been launched to prevent all kinds of imports that do not meet the country's basic needs.

The MIDA minister condemned the injustice four companies are committing against producers by increasing the prices of raw materials.

Comptroller General on Public Sector Reductions

PA1506164688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Report on interview with Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez by unidentified reporters at the Legislative Assembly on 14 June]

[Text] Today the National Legislative Assembly Budget Commission summoned Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin and Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez in order to seek a resolution of the economic problems our country is experiencing. The comptroller general gives further details on what was discussed during the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] We are here following a constitutional mandate. We are reporting on the implementation of the budget for the rest of the year, especially for the 1st quarter [as heard]. We submitted a report on the implementation of the budget in terms of income and expenditures.

[Reporter] There is talk of a 15- or 10-percent pay reduction in the government payroll for those earning 700 balboas or less [time period not specified]. How do you feel about that?

[Rodriguez] I understand that the president is reviewing this matter. However, rather than a reduction in terms of dismissals, we are talking about a reduction of all expenditures. This means operational or functioning expenditures, including much more than personnel expenditures, as the planning and economic policy minister has announced.

As I see it, this situation indicates we will have to make proposals in terms of reducing personnel. As we said—not now, but some time ago—the personnel reduction must first be handled with a reduction in pay of top-earning officials. Chiefly, this entails a reduction in entertainment [representacion] and per diem expenses and overtime. Officials should be retired. In sum, we are already doing all of this. Two or three jobs. [sentence as heard]

Later, any reductions involving more personnel cuts must be made after long talks and agreement with the employee associations.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, how is the collection of revenues progressing?

[Rodriguez] Very difficult and very critical. However, if we compare it with March and April, we could say it is doing a little better. Still, it has not reached normal levels. It is way below the amounts collected during the same months last year.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, Hector Aleman of FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employess] said you have a listing of 1,000 people holding sinecure jobs in the government. When will you disclose it?

[Rodriguez] I think that information, and I want you to...

[Reporter, interrupting] Hector Aleman said you had a list with the names of people with sinecure jobs.

[Rodriguez] He has not said that to me. I have stated, and I told you last year, that in customary audits on payrolls we have indeed found officials who are paid in an institution but do not work there. The ministers or directors have justified some of them saying that those peopie work in other offices or are working elsewhere. Logically, that responsibility falls within the purview of the president. That is the list we have. We reiterated that information to the president in April...

[Reporter, interrupting] How many?

[Rodriguez] There were a little over 2,000. I repeat, those people are assigned to government institutions but are not working there. I cannot say that those people are holding sinecure jobs.

[Reporter] Is there any plan to...

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Sure. We are morally bound to do so. We would lack the credibility to make any other adjustment if we do not do that.

[Reporters] [Words indistinct] a timetable?

[Rodriguez] Indeed, we have to think about cutting personnel expenses. However, I repeat that it does not necessarily mean mass dismissals of employees. I think there are other measures first, such as the ones we have mentioned. The measures include the one I favor: wage reduction.

[Reporter] Does the wage cut include our foreign service?

[Rodriguez] Everybody. I think we must begin there, too.

[Reporter] How about the legislators?

[Rodriguez] Those too. They are the least ones [chuckles] who could oppose the wage cuts. There should not be any difference. [end recording]

Government To Eliminate Overtime Payments

PA1506005888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] As an immediate step to balance the nation's annual budget, Gustavo Gonzalez, the planning and economic policy minister, is currently holding talks with government offices and leaders of unions and employee associations in order to find ways to reduce spending.

Among the measures to be implemented is the elimination of overtime, which represents a large part of the state's payroll.

Banking Official: 'Cash Surplus' in Country

PA1506171488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0330 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 14 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the official National Banking Commission (CBN), said there is "a cash surplus" in Panama, although—it is presumed—that cash is not in the banks.

In statements disseminated today by the National Information System (SNI), De Diego said a large amount of cash was generated within the Panamanian economy while the banks were closed. [passage omitted]

De Diego said: "We currently have a cash surplus. As long as we are unable to use the National Bank, we will continue seeking other means through private banks to allow that cash to leave the country."

Moreover, De Diego added, "with the reopening of banks, cash is returning to the system." He said "banks now have far better liquidity than before the crisis." "As more deposits are made, we will also continue to lift restrictions," he added. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, De Diego said the "banking restrictions are a great sacrifice by those whose deposits are frozen, but they are part of the cost we must pay to protect ourselves from U.S. pressure." [passage omitted]

Banking Association President on Restrictions

PA1006155688 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jun 88 p 1-A

[Article by Claudio Herrera Jimenez]

[Text] National Banking Association President Edgardo Lasso Valdes denied that the $50 million frozen by the United States will solve Panama's economic crisis. He reiterated that as long as the political aspect is not solved, the banking system "will never work normally."

Lasso Valdes, who since 1978 has been manager of the Costa Rican International Bank in Panama, recapped the situation of the banks established in the country since the political crisis broke on 6 June 1987.

He made his remarks yesterday during a luncheon at the Union Club. He was the guest speaker of Panama's Rotary Club. Attending the luncheon were members of that civic group, including Fernando Manfredo, Panama Canal Commission deputy administrator, and other prominent figures of the country's commerce and industry.

The speaker was asked about "triangulation" [triangulacion], which is an operation whereby an individual transfers his savings accounts to a merchant to whom he owes money. Lasso Valdes replied: "As long as a banker pays back the banks and the depositors, there is nothing to prevent any operation provided that these two aspects are taken care of."

Manfredo asked Lasso Valdes about what Manfredo termed the "little courtesy" by many banks of informing their customers about the CBN [National Banking Commission] restrictions that affect their accounts.

Lasso Valdes replied that some banks have been more fair than others under the current circumstances. He reaffirmed that the restrictions were implemented "to cover those banks that were in no condition to withstand massive withdrawals."

In his opinion, the CBN restrictions were taken based on the events that took place. "It is not that we have done the right thing. However, under the circumstances, it was the best thing to do," Lasso Valdes replied.

He added: "At present, we are the movie's bad guys." However, he admitted that "some bankers are more flexible than others...."

Regarding the suggestion that banks open without restrictions, because that is better than having companies going bankrupt, Lasso Valdes felt "that it seems good to say that." Nevertheless, he warned that if some

banks go bankrupt, many people will lose their deposits. Then, we are not talking about three or four banks going under but of thousands of people who losing their money." [quotation marks as published]

National University Affected by U.S. Measures

PA1306031088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Statement by Professor Olmedo Garcia, president of the University of Panama's Professors Association; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Because of the economic and financial blockade, international credit organizations such as AID, the International Development Bank, and other U.S. organizations suspended all types of credit, aid, and economic assistance to Panama.

As a result of these U.S. Government measures, the University of Panama will not receive the following aid: $4.6 million from the IDB, $3.4 million from AID, and $3.4 million in overall donations from other U.S. credit agencies. This aid totals $10.8 million [as heard] that the university will not receive. Research programs, special studies, construction projects, and other operating costs will be affected.

In addition, because the state is receiving less income and is paying out more than it receives, we also have problems in covering our payroll, which includes 2,700 professors and 2,500 other employees. The university rationing and contingency policy is affecting the beginning of the school year considerably. We therefore believe that all university employees are committed not only to the defense of our peoples' self-determination, sovereignty, and democracy; they are also committed to carrying out the urgent tasks necessary in light of the university's current problems. [passage omitted]

FUP Proposes Regulations To Govern Mass Media

PA1506131988 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] In a proposal the People's Unity Front [FUP] representatives presented to Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, the group has called for a new information system in Panama. The proposal involves regulating the communications media.

The representatives of FUP, which sponsored a recent attempt to hold a national dialogue, were Hector Aleman, FUP coordinator; Ramon Castallanos, secretary general of the Union of Journalists; and Francisco Castaneda, a member of the FUP permanent commission.

The FUP representatives made a number of recommendations regarding existing media and the reopening of currently suspended media. According to Castaneda, FUP has proposed regulations governing the reopening of the media and the professional exercise of journalism. He explained some aspects of the proposal:

[Begin Castaneda recording] In this way we would make it possible to reopen the media and would regulate the exercise of journalism, the science of journalism, and the people's right to receive truthful, honest, and complete information. [end recording]

Engineering Battalion Head Promoted, Reassigned

PA1206211588 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 12 Jun 88

[From the weekly Panama Defense Forces program "Everything for The Fatherland"]

[Text] On 8 June, FDP [Panama Defense Forces] Major Luis Eduardo Ruiz Valdes was promoted to lieutenant colonel. At the time of his promotion, Lt Col Ruiz was chief of the Military Engineering Battalion. Lt Col Ruiz has been appointed chief of the Panamanian delegation to the Inter-American Defense Board and military adviser to the Panamanian delegation to the OAS. The "Everything for The Fatherland" program congratulates Lt Col Ruiz Valdes and wishes him success in his new post.

Country Joining ALADI as Observer Member

PA1006165588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] Panama is joining ALADI as a new observer member. During the official ceremony, Alexis Cabrera, our diplomatic envoy in Montevideo, Uruguay—where ALADI is headquartered—said Panama has strategic offers [ofertas estrategicas] regarding services and use of free zones. These offers will be implemented within the framework of the ALADI agreements.

Cabrera also said that Panama regards its ties with Latin America of the utmost interest, especially in economic and political areas. He added that our being divided makes us vulnerable and allows us to be exploited separately and as a whole.

Argentina

CNEA Head Denies Nuclear Waste Site Chosen

PY1506181988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1352 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (TELAM)—CNEA chairperson Emma Perez Ferreira has expressed her astonishment regarding a report published by the British economic newspaper "THE FINANCIAL TIMES" regarding the establishment of a nuclear waste site in the Town of Gastre, Chubut Province. Perez Ferreira has asserted that there is no imminent need for adopting a measure of this nature.

After stating this is a political measure completely outside the bounds of the technical decisions adopted by the CNEA, Perez Ferreira said no political party will be willing to pay the high political cost of accepting a nuclear waste site.

The scientist explained that according to the national nuclear energy production program, a nuclear dump with the characteristics mentioned in the report will be needed only by the year 2005.

She said that for the past 10 years, the CNEA has been studying possible geological sites to establish a nuclear deposit [repostorio] for its own material so as not to affect the local radioactivity level in populated areas.

Perez Ferreira explained the difference between a nuclear waste site and a nuclear deposit. She said the latter is a place where previously-treated and reprocessed nuclear waste is deposited to assure that there will be no incidence in the radioactivity level that is normally found in the soil.

Bolivia

Balance of Payments Bolstered by Illegal Dollars

PY1506164388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0051 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] La Paz, 14 Jun (EFE)—According to a Central Bank report, part of the proceeds from illegal activities, including drug trafficking, bolstered Bolivia's 1987 balance of payments. The total amount is $50 million.

Authorities stress that the proceeds from illegal activities, or those that do not have a legally established origin, go into an account called "errors and omissions" of the balance of payments that is managed by the Bolivian Central Bank.

According to the report, in 1986 the "errors and omissions" account totalled $211 million, which is the largest amount of proceeds from illegal activities that the account has received. In 1985 it totalled $180 million. Central Bank authorities believe that the fall in illegal dollars in this account is evidence that the fight against drug trafficking is having positive results.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Soviet University

PY1506033388 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jun 88 p 4

[Text] The State University of Moscow (Lomonosov) and San Andres University of La Paz have signed a technical and scientific cooperation agreement.

They have agreed to exchange academic, scientific, and methodology experiences and information on higher education and the training of experts.

The two universities will exchange experts (teachers and research assistants holding a degree in sciences) every year with the purpose of carrying out scientific experiments, giving conferences, and improving their professional experts. The exchanges will last 1 to 3 months.

They have also agreed to encourage the teaching of the Russian language and literature at San Andres University, and of the Spanish language and Bolivian literature at the Moscow State University.

The two universities have agreed to the following financial conditions for the exchange programs: the scientists' home university will pay all transportation expenses to the exchange university, which will then pay all the visiting scientists' expenses.

The Bolivian specialists will receive allowances on the following scale: science doctors, deans, and department chiefs, 400 rubles per month; a sciences doctoral candidate, 300 rubles; and an expert without a sciences degree, 200 rubles.

The agreement, which was signed last night, is valid for 5 years, beginning today. If no objections are made during this time, the agreement will automatically be extended for 3 more years.

Narcotics Video Protagonist Arrest Confirmed

PY1506125688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] It has been confirmed that Jorge Albestegui Alexander, one of the protagonists of the narcovideo, was arrested a few hours ago in compliance with the arrest order issued by the Chamber of Deputies commission.

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has stated that others connected with this case will be arrested, but declined to give any names.

Briefs

Japanese Agriculture Donation

The Japanese Cooperation Agency [Agencia de Cooperacion del Japon—JICA] has granted Bolivia two donations that amount to $13 million which will be invested in agriculture and in the construction of roads. The agreement was signed on 10 June by the Planning and Coordination Ministry Investments Under Secretary Fernando Cossio and JICA representative Katsuo Kakei. [Summary] [*PY1506125988 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jun 88 p 6*]

Chile

Merino Comments on Candidates for Plebiscite

PY1506175088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that there are two well-defined candidates for the upcoming plebiscite: the yes candidate and the no candidate.

He added that the no candidate only offers chaos in the political, social, economic, and other fields. The yes candidate, on the other hand, is the same one chosen by the citizenry on 11 September 1973 and ratified with the majority's approval of the 1980 Constitution.

The Navy commander made this statement after presiding over the legislative branch session at the Diego Portales building.

[Begin Merino recording] I want to make the following quite clear: there are two candidates for the upcoming plebiscite. One candidate is named no and other yes. They both appeared on 11 September 1973. The yes candidate appeared at the request of the people who, in 1980, expressed their full confidence in the plebiscite that ratified the, what do we call it? The constitution we had prepared. This candidate continued in power and we have now reached the 1988 plebiscite. The yes candidate says: Look here, I [words indistinct] with all this that you have experienced and are acquainted with. In the future I intend to continue with the same policy. This candidate has no name yet.

The no candidate also appeared on 11 September when, at the request of the entire citizenry, we ousted the no candidate because he destroyed the country, the economy. Originally speaking the country no longer existed. Nobody respected the Supreme Court, nobody respected the decisions of the Legislative Branch, the decisions taken by the comptroller's office. In view of this economic, social, moral, and political chaos all the Chileans asked us to oust the no candidate. Therefore, we had to react and, in compliance with the Constitution and laws, we ousted the no candidate.

The no candidate has appeared again now. He says that during these past 15 years, and at every opportunity since then, I have killed, have tried to [words indistinct], have tried to stir up all sort of conflicts. For the future the no candidate promises the same policy exercised until 11 September.

This is the reality. If the Chileans vote for the yes candidate, they will enjoy the policy that they are acquainted with. If they vote for the no candidate, they will see that this candidate has promised the policy that prevailed until 11 September. It is a simple as that. [end recording] [passage on unrelated material omitted]

No-Vote Command Creates Council of Presidents

PY1506192188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The 16 political parties making up the national pro no-vote command have created a council of presidents. Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Patricio Aylwin will be the council's spokesman. The decision was made public during a news conference held at the no-vote house. The attendance of a large number of suppliers hindered the reporters work.

The new structure of the command also includes an executive committee made up of Christian Democract Andres Zaldivar, Nunez-led Socialist Party leader Ricardo Lagos, Radical Party leader Enrique Silva Cimma, Humanist Party leader Jose Tomas Saenz, and Socialist no-vote command leader Luis Maira. PDC leader Jenaro Arriagada was designated executive secretary of the committee.

Aylwyn read a statement denying that a no-vote victory in the plebiscite will mean chaos.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Contrary to what the confused pro-government sector has predicted, our proposal for the time that will come after the no-vote victory generates neither violence nor chaos; it seeks a rational, concerted solution leading to a rapid, peaceful, and orderly transition to democracy. Far from a retrogression in the national economy—which the regime is advertising in an effort to frighten the middle class—our socioeconomic commitment, which is not a government program but a common set of guidelines, will try to equitably and realistically solve the very serious problems of injustice today affecting large sectors of the population, particularly the have-nots. [end recording]

Aylwin added that Pinochet and the progovernment sector are lying when they portray themselves as promoters of freedom and democracy, labelling false the president's pretense as a promoter of modernization. Aylwin said that the military regime is extremist in nature.

[Begin Ailwyn recording] The Pinochet regime is extremist because it is supported by ultra-rightist groups like UDI [Democratic Independent Union] and the National Vanguard. It has based its action on the logic of war, dividing the Chilean people.

Dispaired at the imminence of defeat, Pinochet and his government have not hesitated to use all means at its disposal. His campaign, which is supported by the massive resources which are available to those who have absolute control over the state, and which is full of disqualifying and violent insults, has been marked by considerable abuse. [end recording]

Convinced that we are speaking for the democratic majority of the Chilean people, and determined to make sure that the secrecy of their votes will be respected, we will not let the government's heavyhandedness frighten us, Aylwin added.

He concluded by saying this task is to be undertaken not only by the political parties but also by all the other social organizations.

Communist Party Members To Support No-Vote

PY1506192688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The Communist Party [PC] has decided to vote no in the upcoming plebiscite. This decision was disclosed by the PC Central Committee through a communique read by its representative, former Senator Julieta Campusano.

[Begin Campusano recording] The PC Central Committee has decided to advise its members to vote no. The party has made this decision convinced that it will contribute to create better conditions to turn the plebiscite in an event that will favor the democratic cause, to defeat Pinochet, and to generate a situation that will allow the ousting of the dictatorship.

Our no to the dictatorship is categorical, expressed in many ways, at all times, and everywhere. [end recording]

Julieta Campusano added: Our decision to vote no will, therefore, express the party's decision to continue its political line under the concrete circumstances that have developed.

She added that they will launch their no-vote campaign with great energy in order to develop a confrontation with the regime but always granting priority treatment to the peoples' demands.

Campusano added that the PC advises its members to vote no from and independent and unitarian point of view that will contribute to the peoples' unity, to the cohesion of the leftist sector, and to the joint action of the opposition sector.

When asked about the possibility of the PC joining the National Command for the no vote, PC spokesman Jose Sanfuentes said that, above all, the communists seek unity at a rank-and-file level.

[Begin Sanfuentes recording] The strength stems from the unity of the rank-and-file. In the second place, we wish to strengthen the united left so that it may play the role of the force that it represents in our country and so that once the people are united at a rank-and-file level and the united left plays its role in a determined and resolute manner, we may be able to engage in a joint action with all opposition forces. As time goes by we will see through which concrete organizations this joint action will be carried out. [end recording]

Jose Sanfuentes added that once Pinochet's government is defeated, a provisional democratic regime must be established to allow free presidential and parliamentarian elections.

The communist leaders ended by stating that they will resort to propaganda, ideological debates, and door to door visits in order to carry out their campaign for the no vote.

Aylwin Denies Affiliation of Communists

PY1606003688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Patricio Aylwin, spokesman for the national Pro No-Vote command, has said the participation of the Communist Party in the command coalition is not possible. Aylwin made these comments when asked about the Communist Party call for a no-vote campaign.

[Begin Aylwin recording] To date, we have not received any request from the Communist Party to join the effort for the no-vote. The Communist Party Manifesto says this is part of its political line of action. But their line of action is opposed by many parties within the Command. Therefore, we must exclude the possibility of their joining our coalition. [end recording]

Patricio Aylwin said that the Communist Party campaign for the no-vote is independent of the Command's campaign.

Voter Registration Surpasses 6 Million Mark

PY1506023888 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] An official report of the Electoral Service states that 6,004,376 people had registered in the electoral offices as of 31 May. The report says that a record 510,880 citizens registered during May.

The opposition had placed the registration goal for the plebiscite at 6.5 million, while the Government Junta said that 6 million registrations is sufficient to hold the plebiscite.

The Electoral Service report also states that 23,451 registrations have been nullified for various reasons.

MAPU Claims Responsibility for Killing Carabinero

PY1606002788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] An armed group from the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] has claimed responsibility for the murder of Carabinero Samuel Lillo on 12 April in the Renca District.

In a letter addressed to the media and signed by the MAPU political committee, this movement acknowledges responsibility for the crime, and states that it was carried out in order to steal the Carabinero's UZI submachinegun.

The MAPU document also criticizes the opposition and calls it a zoo in which everyone is struggling to obtain leadership. The MAPU also states that it does not approve registering with the electoral court, it will not vote in the plebiscite, and it categorically rejects all institutional order.

Colombia

Gomez Hurtado Kidnappers Issue Communique

PA1606132088 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Eighteen days after kidnapping former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, his captors sent evidence to the politician's family that he is still alive. The self-styled Colombians for National Salvation Movement have sent two letters, one addressed to former Minister Celio Andrade Manrique and a handwritten letter from Gomez Hurtado to his wife, Margarita.
The text of the letter is as follows:

Margarita: It has been 15 days since I last saw you. I am well. My fate is not in your hands or in the hands of our children. Be calm; my fate is in the hands of God. I love you dearly, Alvaro.

The authenticity of the letter signed by the former presidential candidate has been fully verified by the authorities.

There is no sense in negotiating a life for the publication of a communique, when the fate of the country is at stake. We want everyone, including Alvaro, to participate in building that future, the group holding the former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado has said. In a communique sent to former Justice Minister Celio Andrade Manrique and to the family of the Conservative Party leader, the self-styled Colombians for National Salvation Movement said that this is the time for national reconciliation with democracy, and not for never-ending war without return.

We are willing to talk, to see if together we can find the paths and solutions by means of agreements and participation. We tell you, we want Alvaro to live, the subversive group emphasized.

Leftist Leaders Killed in Bucaramanga

PA1506153988 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Bucaramanga—Four leftist leaders and one old woman, a mother of one of the leaders, were murdered hours ago by unidentified assassins in Barrancabermeja and San Vicente de Chucuri.

Local authorities have reported that Patriotic Unity [UP] Treasurer Arnuyo Ireno Plata and his mother, 75-year-old Celina Plata, were assassinated in Barrancabermeja. Anibal Delgado was also killed and three other UP activists were wounded in the same incident, which occurred at a downtown restaurant in Barrancabermeja.

Furthermore, Pablo Vicente Gomez and Timoleon Ruiz Pantoja—leaders of the so-called Popular Front—were killed in San Vicente de Chucuri, one of the municipalities considered to be in a critical state because of the latest violent incidents.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Confirms Ortigoza's Departure

PY1506174688 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] When consulted about the situation of former Army Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, Foreign Minister Carlos Saldivar stated that both Ortigoza and the Saguier brothers have been granted the normal constitutional guarantees. Ortigoza today traveled to Argentina after quitting his asylum in the Colombian Embassy.

[Begin recording] [Saldivar] Those who entered the Colombian and Argentine embassies have now left with all the guarantees that the government grants to all Paraguayan citizens, and they are able to travel within the national territory.

This is the summary of these cases, which started when these people entered the Colombian and Argentine Embassies.

[Reporter] That means that Ortigoza left without a safe-conduct?

[Saldivar] The government has not granted a safe-conduct to anyone.

[Reporter] Is there anything else on this topic?

[Saldivar] I believe that these cases have contributed very little to the right of asylum and, therefore, I believe we should forget them because they are a step backward in such a sacred right as the right of asylum. [end recording]

Police Release Febrerista Party Leader Iramain

PY1506182288 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Jun 88 p 9

[Excerpt] "During my stay in jail I was held incommunicado. I did not meet anyone. There was no radio or newspapers. Therefore, I am just learning about recent events. My comrades are bringing me up-to-date on what occurred at the meeting of southern cone democratic political youths."

This is what Dr. Anibal Carrillo Iramain, secretary general of the Febrerista Revolutionary Youth, said yesterday, at noon minutes after he was released from jail. Carrillo Iramain said when he was arrested he was first taken to the third police precinct and then to police headquarters. [passage omitted]

Peru

Terrorists Reportedly Kill U.S. AID Employee

PY1606021588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 16 Jun 88

[Text] Lima 15 Jun (EFE)—The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) said today in Lima that it has no concrete information about the alleged death of an American engineer in a terrorist ambush in Huancayo, in the central Peruvian mountains.

Lima newspapers today reported that U.S. citizen Constantin Gregory, who worked at an agricultural project, was murdered on 13 June by alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path group, as was Jose Rojas, a local veterinarian.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the victims were not members of AID, but were locally contracted for a sheep improvement project of the Agrarian and Livestock National Research Institute, which receives help from AID.

He added that a report was received from Huancayo, capital of the Junin Department, 315 km east of Lima, that there are documents with the names of these people but that there is no concrete information to confirm the identity and nationality of the alleged U.S. citizen.

The AID spokesman said: "As long as we do not have full identification, we cannot confirm anything."

According to press reports the vehicle in which the two people were traveling was ambushed near Aramanchay, about 25 km from Huancayo.

The pick-up truck was shot at and stopped by a group of terrorists who forced the occupants to get out the vehicle. They were then shot in the head and the vehicle was blown up.

Military Club Bombed; No Casualties Reported

PY1506180188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0345 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Lima, 14 Jun (EFE)—A bomb went off at the door of the Military Club in downtown Lima tonight. It damaged the facade of the building but caused no casualties.

The bombing was perpetrated by two individuals who threw the bomb at the Military Club when many people were walking around San Martin Plaza, one of Lima's main squares.

Police sources reported that the bomb damaged the door and windows of the club and of the nearby stores but no one was hurt.

Police experts found another bomb in the square just 100 meters away from the club and defused it.

These two incidents came in the wake of two alleged Shining Path attacks last night during which one policeman was killed and two others were wounded.

The attacks took place after the police announced that they had captured Osman Morote, Shining Path second-in-command and the military mastermind of the organization.

Morote, who is wanted by several courts in different cities where he has perpetrated attacks, will be tried at the Lima second criminal court.

The police also reported that 11 alleged terrorists, including 7 women, were arrested yesterday at the cemetery of Lurin, a southern village, while painting the hammer and sickle on graves.

Buried at this cemetery are many of the 250 prisoners charged with involvement in terrorist activities who died on 19 June 1986 during the military and police repression of mutinies at three Lima prisons.

Uruguay

President Speaks on Integration, Full Stop

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[Text] Paysandu, Uruguay, 14 Jun (EFE)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said today in Paysandu, located 380 km northeast of Montevideo, that the country "is achieving its integration" despite the "disintegrative forces acting within it."

Sanguinetti arrived in Paysandu with IDB President Enrique Iglesias to inaugurate the most important Uruguayan citrus complex which was built using Spanish technology.

Sanguinetti said: "Uruguay has integrated itself to international production. Europe and the United States are at the vanguard of technological development and we cannot be left behind evoking ghosts of the past."

Sanguinetti mentioned those who are promoting the holding of a referendum to repeal the "full stop" law regarding the trials of those military officers who violated human rights during the past military regime.

"The true forces of development and peace will prevail," said Sanguinetti who assured: "the large majority of the country knows that it will not be through stoppages and confrontation" we will achieve development but through "new factories, new investments, and the through work and capital."

Sanguinetti noted the importance of international capital "which we have not rejected. We have rather challenged it to finance Uruguayan development and the future of our country."

Industry sources said the state-owned company which has embarked on a multi-million dollar diversification programme, is hardly likely to be able to meet the year's revised target of 216,700 tonnes.

It had set itself a target of 136,700 tonnes for the second crop. [passage omitted]